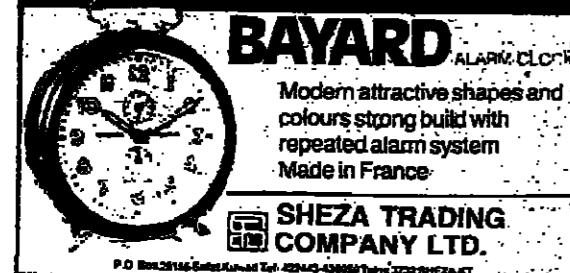


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ARAB TIMES

NO. 7299 WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1988 ZI AL QADAH 29, 1408 AH 18 PAGES 150 FILS

Sheikh Saad has fruitful talks with US President

Reagan vows to fight for arms package

WASHINGTON, July 12, (Agencies): US President Reagan met HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and expressed optimism that the administration will be able to overcome Congressional opposition to Kuwait's bid for a \$1.9 billion arms package.

"I'm going to fight for it," he told reporters during a picture-taking session in the Oval Office with Sheikh Saad.

"We want very much to complete that," said Reagan who has not had much success in winning approval on arms sales to Arab nations.

Kuwait is seeking to buy US ground-to-air Maverick missiles and 40 advanced F-18 fighter-bombers.

Chance

Asked if he thought there was any chance of success in getting the package through Congress, Reagan said, "I think so."

The Crown Prince, seated next to him, did not comment.

The Crown Prince has met with several US officials since his arrival on Sunday. He met yes-



President Reagan (left) meets HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad. (Reuters wirephoto)

terday with Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and was entertained later at a dinner by John Whitehead, the acting Secretary of State.

Kuwait's intention to buy the

17 killed in clash

ANKARA, July 12, (Reuters): Seventeen people died in a 24-hour clash between Kurdish rebels and security forces in southeastern Turkey.

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مکالمہ میں ایک روزانہ کا پاکستان پر اسلام کا حصہ ملکی صدر میں سے باتیں جیتے گے۔

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will remain above normal with light to moderate south-easterly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate. High water: 10.00 am, 10.30 pm. Low water: 3.00 am, 7.00 pm. Sunrise: 5.30 am. Sunset: 6.50 pm. Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 47°C 17°F Ahmadi: 44°C 111°F Faikha: 42°C 108°F. Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 28°C 82°F Ahmadi: 31°C 89°F Faikha: 33°C 91°F. Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 47°C 17°F Ahmadi: 44°C 111°F Faikha: 42°C 108°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 42 per cent Ahmadi: 45 per cent Faikha: 46 per cent. Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 30 per cent Ahmadi: 36 per cent Faikha: 47 per cent.

Tehran forces retreat from Halabja

Iraq routs Iranians to regain territory in south

battle fronts to counter the enemy's new threats and aggressions...," the statement said. "We are for justice and will not retreat before force."

The elite Presidential Guards spearheaded an offensive early today to retake a chunk of land in the Zubaidat area along the border with Iran, according to a communiqué from the general command of the Iraqi armed forces.

If the Iraqis maintain their new positions they will have retaken in three months the largest pieces of territory lost to Iran over the past six years.

Missions

The official Iranian Islamic Republic News Agency, said Iranian warplanes heavily bombed Iraqi positions in five missions over the Zubaidat area.

IRNA also said that Iranian troops had retreated from the town of Halabja in northeastern Iraq to new "defensive positions." The retreat was designed to "maintain more secure approaches," the report said, noting that "to make advances and retreats in the course of war was a natural phenomenon."

In a statement, Iranian command said that the country's fighters would not give in until they vindicated the nation's rightful demands.

"...Our youth must rush to the

as long as it continues the war and tries to take our land," the communiqué said.

"The enemy has no other option but to withdraw from our territories, exchange prisoners of war, allow free passage for Iraq in the Shatt Al Arab (waterway) and the Gulf, sign a peace treaty and stop interfering in our internal affairs."

Iraq took over Halabja, in the Kurdish area of Iraq, last March.

IRNA also denied an Iraqi report released yesterday that an Iranian F-5 fighter had been shot down over Basra in the southeastern front. Iranian planes carried out 18 sorties in the area and all returned safely to base, according to the IRNA report, which quoted an unidentified senior Air Force commander.

Confirmed

Neither side confirmed how much territory Iran held in the Zubaidat area but it was believed sizable.

Today's setbacks are the latest in a series of battlefield defeats for Iran since the Iraqis took back the Faw peninsula on April 18. The Faw offensive was followed by a string of battlefield victories along the southern front that included Iraq retaking the Salamchek area east of Basra and the oil-rich Majnoon islands north of that city.

Iraq has also claimed a steady advance in the northern mountains.

Bodies of victims flown home

NICOSIA, July 12, (Reuters): The bodies of two Pakistanis and four Indians killed when a US cruiser shot down an Iranian Airbus in the Gulf were flown home today, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

IRNA said coffins containing the bodies of Pakistani Naval Attaché Captain Munir Ershad and his wife, and four members of an Indian family were carried past a guard of honour as a brass band played funeral marches before being put on board an airplane.

They were among 290 people killed when a missile fired by the cruiser Vincennes hit an Iran Air A-300 Airbus in the Strait of Hormuz on July 3.

Security Council postpones meeting

US Navy must leave Gulf, demands Iran

UNITED NATIONS, July 12, (Agencies): Iran said that the United States should pay reparations for shooting down an Iranian airliner but added that payment was not enough and called for the US Navy to get out of the Gulf.

The statement by Iran's UN Ambassador, Mohammad Jafar Mahallati, came yesterday as the 15-member Security Council postponed a meeting to consider an Iranian declaration condemning the United States for shooting down the plane, killing all 290 people aboard.

The meeting was postponed until Thursday. Diplomatic sources said coun-

cil president Paulo Nogueira-Borges of Brazil made the decision after consultations with US Ambassador Vernon Walters. Mahallati and members of the council.

Demand

The United States, Britain and France are expected to use their veto power as permanent council members to stop any censure resolution or any demand that the US fleet leave the Gulf.

The sources said Iran had been unable to gain a council majority to condemn the downing of the jetliner and it would present a statement, to be followed by a debate, without submitting a resolution.

Washington says the USS Vincennes shot down the plane by accident on July 3, believing the jetliner was an attacking warplane.

Earlier yesterday, the US government announced an offer of voluntary compensation to families of victims, but not to the Iranian government.

Proper

"I have already stated that the proper term is 'reparation,'" said Mahallati in response to a question at a news conference.

"(But) reparation is not sufficient, definitely, because the root cause of this tragedy and similar tragedies should be removed from the Gulf."

"And it cannot be anything less than withdrawal of US forces from the Gulf."

Mahallati had been asked for his reaction to the US government announcement it would offer compensation to the families as a humanitarian act.

Feelings

US lawmakers appear to have mixed feelings about Reagan's decision to pay compensation to families of victims of Iran Airbus disaster.

"While the shooting down on flight 655 was a regrettable tragedy, I'm not quite ready for the United States to pay reparations," Senator Rudy Boschwitz said.

Thousands more lined the streets as she was driven standing in a jeep amid a cavalcade of cars, buses and trucks along the 13-km (eight-mile) route from the airport to the old quarter of Lahore.

They flashed victory signs and shouted slogans hailing 35-year-old Benazir as Pakistan's destiny.

Benazir is due to address a mass rally of the nine-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) opposition alliance which she also heads.

Zia has promised to hold fresh national elections by Aug. 27.

He made the pledge after dismissing the three-year-old civilian administration of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo on May 29 and dissolving the lower house of Parliament.

President "the legitimate political aspirations" of the Palestinian people.

Reagan spoke about these rights during a farewell statement following his talks with Sheikh Saad.

Concession

In what appeared to be a major concession made to his Kuwaiti host, Reagan said:

"In our discussions today, we reaffirmed the urgent need for a just and lasting resolution of the Palestinian problem.

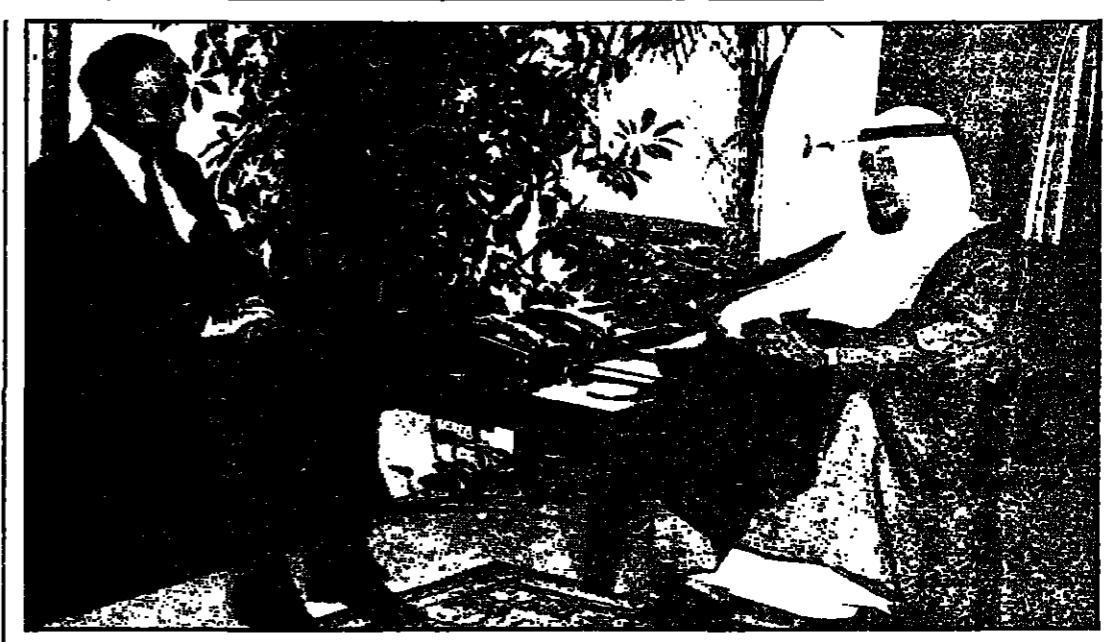
"The United States will continue to work actively in the pursuit of a comprehensive peace that would realize the legitimate political aspirations of Palestinians while safeguarding the legitimate security concerns of Israel."

In his farewell statement, Sheikh Saad also emphasised the need for the US to recognise "the national legitimate rights" of the Palestinians, when he said:

"We hope that your efforts will continue and lead to a just and lasting peace."

In his statement before a throng of newsmen, photographers and television cameras,

(Continued on Page 2)



HH the Amir received Younger yesterday.

Younger in talks on arms sales

BRITISH Defence Secretary George Younger discussed defence sales and the Iran-Iraq war with HH the Amir of Kuwait and other senior officials yesterday, a British embassy spokesman said.

Britain is bidding for a share in a major arms buying spree by Kuwait, within missile range of the Iran-Iraq warfront and target of repeated Iranian threats.

Diplomats said the British could benefit from opposition in the US Congress to the sale to Kuwait of advanced US F-18 fighters and missiles.

The US Senate voted last week to strike Maverick air-to-ground missiles from the proposed \$1.9 billion deal, now being discussed in Washington by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

The British spokesman said Younger met the Amir, acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed and Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah.

Younger told reporters on

arrival, Britain was willing to discuss any Kuwaiti request for arms.

British weapons on offer include the Tornado fighter, seen as the likely alternative to the F-18, the Challenger tank and the Warrior armoured personnel carrier (APC), diplomats said.

Britain last week agreed to supply Saudi Arabia with up to 60 Tornados and other equipment worth billions of dollars in a major setback for competing US manufacturers.

Kuwait and Britain have longstanding defence ties dating to the British protectorate before 1961. About 80 British officers are stationed in Kuwait for training programmes, and Royal Navy ships escort oil tankers in the Gulf.

The Kuwait News Agency KUNA said Younger praised Kuwait's stand on terrorism during talks with Sheikh Salem.

Last April Kuwait refused to yield to demands by the hijackers of a Kuwaiti airliner for the release of saboteurs in Kuwaiti jails.

Younger told reporters on

Kuwait Navy to hold exercises

THE Kuwait Navy will stage exercises with live ammunition off Kuwaiti islands in the northern Gulf from July 16-20, the Defence Ministry announced yesterday.

It warned private fishing and pleasure boats to stay clear of an area northwest of Kubbar and Umm Al Maradim Islands. The islands lie on either side of the main approach channel to Kuwait's main oil port of Mina Al Ahmadi.

More than a dozen mines widely blamed on Iran were laid in the channel last year to disrupt shipping.

Dukakis names running mate

BOSTON, July 12, (Reuters): Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis today announced Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen would be his vice-presidential running mate.

He predicted at a news conference a Democratic victory "that will carry Mike Dukakis and Lloyd Bentsen to the White House." (See Page 2)

Washington hits back

Nicaragua expels 7 American diplomats

MANAGUA, July 12, (AP): The Nicaraguan government accused US Ambassador Richard Melton and seven other embassy officials of state terrorism and ordered them to leave the country within 72 hours.

It also closed the opposition newspaper La Prensa for 15 days, shut down the Roman Catholic radio station Radio Católica and arrested an opposition leader.

In Washington, President

Reagan said today he had ordered the expulsion of Nicaraguan Ambassador Carlos Tunnerman and seven of his aides in response to Managua's ouster of the US envoy and seven of his colleagues.

"We are going to return the favour," Reagan told reporters.

The developments came one day after Nicaraguan police clashed with thousands of demonstrators at an anti-Sandinista rally in Nandaime, south of Managua.

Ortega on Sunday described the demonstration as being part of a US plan to undermine his leftist government and seven comrades back to Managua.

Reagan said the action did not amount to a break in diplomatic relations, but added "there is a

possibility always" that this would follow.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that the expulsion orders probably would be delivered by the State Department later today and that the Nicaraguans would be given 72 hours to leave.

Fitzwater said the seven aides had not been selected.

The developments came one day after Nicaraguan police clashed with thousands of demonstrators at an anti-Sandinista rally in Nandaime, south of Managua.

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Huge crowds greet Benazir in Lahore

LAHORE, July 12, (Reuters): Huge crowds took to the streets of Lahore today as Pakistan's opposition leader Benazir Bhutto opened her campaign to force President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq into holding elections.

About 20,000 supporters of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) greeted Benazir, expecting her first child later this year, when she arrived at Lahore airport this evening.

Thousands more lined the streets as she was driven standing in a jeep amid a cavalcade of cars, buses and trucks along the 13-km (eight-mile) route from the airport to the old quarter of Lahore.

They flashed victory signs and shouted slogans hailing 35-year-old Benazir as Pakistan's destiny.

Ben



Aquino meets Shultz at the Presidential Palace in Manila. (Reuter wirephoto)

Japanese women live longer

TOKYO, July 12. (UPI): The average life expectancy of Japanese women has reached 81 years, longest expected life span in the world, Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry announced.

A ministry survey released on Monday showed the life expectancy of Japanese women had climbed from 80.93 years in 1987 to 81.39 years this year.

For Japanese men, projected life spans have reached 75.61 years, up 0.38 years from a year ago, also apparently leading the world, the survey said.

The average life expectancy for Japanese in 1936 was 46.92 years for men and 49.63 years for women. In 1947, Japanese life spans reached 50.06 years for men and 53.96 years for women.

Every year since the end of World War II, nearly a year has been added to the longevity of both Japanese men and women, the figures showed.

Lead
A ministry spokesman said it was certain that Japan leads the world in life expectancy for women, but said the claim for men could not be confirmed because of outdated data on male longevity from other countries.

Iceland ranked second in projected life spans for women at 80.38 years, which was followed by 80.07 in the Netherlands and 73.50 years in Sweden, according to the survey.

Aquino hints at bases accord with US

MANILA, July 12. (Reuter): President Corazon Aquino today strongly hinted her government was close to an agreement with the United States on the future of major US military bases in the Philippines.

"We both hope that the talks will be over by the end of this month," Aquino told reporters after a 32-minute, private meeting with visiting US Secretary of State George Shultz.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, who heads Manila's negotiating team, told reporters the talks were short of final agreement.

"I wouldn't say we had an agreement but ... the discussions were positive and could be regarded as conducive to achieving the goal which we had been aiming at all this time — ending the talks and accomplishing agreement by the next few weeks," Manglapus added.

"He said Aquino and Shultz had discussed the major funding issue of compensation for the use of Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base north of Manila, and the anti-nuclear legislation now before the Philippine Congress.

He gave no details, but added that he never doubted there would be an agreement.

Talks on the future of the two bases after the current 25 year

agreement expires in 1991 stalled on the compensation issue and have made little apparent progress since they began in early April.

Boost

No figures have been released but Manila has made it clear it expects a major boost in the \$350 million annual aid package it receives from Washington to allow it to use the bases.

Technically, the future of the two facilities after 1991 remains in doubt but US officials have made it clear Manila cannot expect a major increase in compensation now without some undertaking for the post-1991 period.

In a day of talks with Philippine officials and senior congressmen, Shultz's route was continually dogged by protesters by both left and right.

He entered the Foreign Ministry through the back door to avoid 3,000 protesters demanding deposed strongman Ferdinand Marcos be allowed to leave his exile in Hawaii.

"You need the bases here ... we need Marcos here," a massive banner read.

At another venue, 20 student activists shouted anti-American slogans at Shultz's heavily guarded, 20-car convoy, waving placards reading "Go home and bring your bases" and "Shultz, don't twist Cory's arm."

Mandela concert

JOHANNESBURG, July 12. (Reuter): South African police have said a pop concert to celebrate the 70th birthday of jailed black nationalist Nelson Mandela could contravene security laws, a lawyer of the organisers said today.

A ministry spokesman said it was certain that Japan leads the world in life expectancy for women, but said the claim for men could not be confirmed because of outdated data on male longevity from other countries.

Iceland ranked second in projected life spans for women at 80.38 years, which was followed by 80.07 in the Netherlands and 73.50 years in Sweden, according to the survey.

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Assad meets Hezbollah leader

Syria seeks Shiite reconciliation

DAMASCUS, July 12. (Reuter): Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has discussed developments in Lebanon with the pro-Iranian Hezbollah spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, Syrian newspapers reported today.

The papers did not give further details on last night's meeting but diplomats noted the visit was Fadlallah's first to Damascus after Syria succeeded in putting an end to fighting between the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and Syrian-backed Amal militiamen in Beirut's southern suburbs in May.

The talks came 24 hours after Assad met with Sheikh Mohamad Shamseddin, Vice-chairman of the Supreme Shiite Islamic Council in Lebanon to discuss the same issues.

Diplomats said that Syria, main foreign power broker in Lebanon, was trying to achieve

full reconciliation between Hezbollah and Amal ahead of September's presidential elections in Lebanon.

Amal leader Nabeel Berri told Reuter in a recent interview he was ready to meet any Lebanese national leader provided the meeting would reach the desired results.

Praise

Meanwhile, the official Syrian newsagency SANA quoted Berri and Shamseddin as praising Syria's efforts to save war-torn Lebanon from its ordeal.

"Syria is keen to achieve general understanding in Lebanon to allow the conducting of general elections on time and to transfer the country to a state of stability," Shamseddin told SANA in Beirut following his meeting with Assad.

Berri said: "Our Syrian brothers are trying their best to reach a



Sheikh Fadlallah

formula that allows holding the elections and reaching a national reconciliation at the same time."

The official Damascus Radio said in a commentary yesterday that every "sincere" Lebanese will find in Damascus a sympathetic ear and readiness to help and cooperate.

"Visits by Lebanese brothers to Syria is not an extraordinary matter because the doors of Damascus are always open for them and they will find a full understanding."

Support

"They will also find an implementation of Syria's decision which was announced by President Assad to back Lebanon and support the Lebanese brothers in all circumstances."

"Syria was not a party in the internal Lebanese conflict and it will never be so. Syria was and will continue to be a supporter of all those who counter the Israeli option and work for achieving Lebanon's unity," it said.

Afghans to decide Najib's fate, says UN envoy

GENEVA, July 12. (Reuter): UN envoy Diego Cordovez says it is up to the Afghans to decide whether Soviet-backed President Najibullah should step down as part of a plan for ending the war.

"You keep trying to nail me down one side or the other on matters which are only for the Afghans to decide," he told reporters at a news conference in Geneva.

Cordovez has just returned from a 12-day trip to Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan where he proposed a cooling-off period and cease-fire during which a group of independent personalities would take over the reins of government in Kabul.

He said his plan was aimed at breaking what he called a "serious political deadlock" and had been well-received by Afghan exiles he met in Pakistan.

"Even a guerrilla commander agreed, saying this is the way to do it," Cordovez said.

Plan

The plan, first outlined in Islamabad over the weekend, provides for a cease-fire from Sept 1 to pave the way for a political settlement.

An independent government made up of impartial Afghans would convene a traditional grand assembly by March to thrash out a permanent solution, Cordovez said.

He refused to be drawn when asked whether this implied the removal of Najibullah. "Don't try to make me speak for Afghans," he said.

Cordovez said his own goal was to prevent further bloodshed between Afghans once the Soviet military pullout is completed by Feb 15 next year under last April's UN-mediated Geneva accord.

Asked about the apparently negative response to his initiative by an alliance of seven guerrilla groups, the UN mediator insisted that the proposal had the backing of what he termed Afghanistan's silent majority.

Pullout

Cordovez said a Soviet Army general told him the Soviet troop pullout was on schedule. "I have no reason to doubt 50 per cent of their troops will be out of Afghanistan by Aug 15," he said.

Under the Geneva accord, the Soviet Union agreed to withdraw all of the more than 100,000 troops it had in Afghanistan by Feb 15 next year. Half are due to leave by Aug 15.

General Boris Gromov, the Soviet commander in Afghanistan said on Sunday all troops stationed in eastern and southeastern areas of Afghanistan had been pulled out.

Cordovez said the withdrawing troops had cleared more than 70 per cent of the minefields they laid in Afghanistan. Only 61 out of a total 2,221 remained and they were all clearly mapped, he added.

Indian premier visits Jordanian city

Rajiv raps Pakistani policies

AMMAN, July 12. (AP): Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi criticised Pakistan's policies and its nuclear programme, claiming its northern neighbour supports terrorism in India, according to published reports today.

"The problem creating most tensions is Pakistan's support for terrorism in India," the English-language Jordan Times quoted Rajiv as saying in a meeting with newspaper editors.

Rajiv, the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Jordan, said that his country was troubled by Pakistan's nuclear programme.

"We feel this is getting very close to nuclear weapons and will cause a tremendous rise in tension in the region," the Indian Prime Minister said.

"We see no need for that programme because there is no other nuclear weapon in the region."

Army personnel and volunteers are working round the clock to repair the breaches and save the town," the deputy commissioner of Sirajganj told the BSS news agency.

Health officials said at least five people had died and 200 others were infected in an epidemic of diarrhoea and dysentery caused by contaminated water and rotten food in the flood-stricken Sunamganj district.

Niranjan Thapa, Nepalese Minister of State for Home Affairs, told the National Assembly seven members of a family lost their lives in Chaitwan village, 32 kilometres south of Kathmandu, on July 5 and five members of another family died at Dumre village, 200 kilometres east of Kathmandu, on the same day.

Eight others died in villages to the northwest and west of the Nepalese capital, he said, while two more were reported missing.

In south Nepal, the Janakpur-Janagar railway suspended services due to flooding and the airport at Janakpur, 125 kilometres southeast of Kathmandu, was under water.

The four parliamentary seats, in areas populated mainly by Sri

Pakistan has denied it intends to develop a nuclear weapons capability and says its programme is for peaceful purposes. Rajiv did not comment on recent reports that India has developed 12-20 nuclear warheads.

The Indian Prime Minister, accompanied by his Italian-born wife Sonia, arrived yesterday for a three-day official visit.

Terrorism

He met King Hussein and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai for discussions about the Gulf war, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Afghanistan and bilateral relations.

Rajiv went early today with King Hussein's first secretary, Prince Raad, for a tour of the ancient Nabataean cave city of Petra, 270 kilometres south of Amman.

He was scheduled to meet

Crown Prince Hassan at a banquet hosted by the prince.

Rajiv attacked Pakistan for what he called its support of terrorism in India.

"We have very hard evidence that shows very clearly how deeply they are involved," he claimed.

Rajiv said his government had handed details of Pakistan's alleged involvement in terrorism to the Pakistani government.

He said India had given to Islamabad a list of suspected terrorists harbouring in Pakistan and demanded that action be taken against them or that they be handed over to India.

"We have seen no movement on that ... we have seen in action that they are just not willing to act," he said, comparing India's and Pakistan's records of dealing with air hijackings involving the two countries in recent years.

Evren arrives in London

LONDON, July 12. (Reuter): Turkish President Kenan Evren arrived in Britain today for a four-day state visit aimed at bolstering his country's application for admission into the European Economic Community.

The London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International marked his arrival with an appeal for the release of hundreds of political prisoners it said were being held and tortured in Turkish prisons.

Evren was received by Queen Elizabeth. He is the first Turkish head of state to visit Britain in 21 years. He is due to have talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher tomorrow.

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Japan still plans to buy Aegis system

TOKYO, July 12. (AP): Japanese Defence chief Tsutomu Kawara said today that Japan still intends to buy the US-made Aegis radar system despite its use in the mistaken downing of an Iranian passenger airplane a week ago.

The system in USS Vincennes in the Gulf reportedly failed to distinguish between the Airbus A-300 wide-bodied jet and an alleged F-14 Tomcat. The ship's captain ordered the plane shot

down, killing all 290 people on board.

Questions arose about Aegis, a complex system of radars and weapons firing mechanisms.

"I understand that the Aegis system is excellent. I have no worries about its capabilities," Kawara said at a news conference after a regular cabinet meeting.

US media highlight Sheikh Saad's visit

WASHINGTON, July 12. (KUNA): The American media today highlighted the visit of Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to Washington and commented editorially on the talks currently underway here, with emphasis on the proposed \$1.9 billion arms deal to Kuwait.

The Washington Post newspaper, in an editorial on the visit, seized the opportunity to attack the US Congress for seeking to block arms to Kuwait and the removal of the Maverick missiles from the integrated arms package.

The Christian Science Monitor, in a front-page lead story, said in its headline, "Proposed arms deal (to Kuwait) tests US Gulf policy. Issues of American influence. Israeli security surround the sale to Kuwait."

Battle

The Washington Times newspaper said: "Administration pleads for Kuwaiti arms OK."

And the nationwide national public radio, which is beamed across all the United States, had a lead commentary on Sheikh Saad's visit, the administration's battle with Congress, and the proposed arms deal.

The US media was today generally supportive of Kuwait's stand, highlighting the threats that Kuwait has faced internally and regionally over the last few years and noting the close US-Kuwaiti relationship.

Relief aid sent to Somalia

AFRICA'S Muslim committee has sent a plane-load of food-stuffs and medicine to assist those struck by starvation in Somalia.

Member of the board of directors of the committee Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Bahar told KUNA that the plane, the first in a series of similar relief operations, is laden with milk, fat and medicine, worth \$50,000.

The money was collected through donations to relief tents of thousands of refugees who were misplaced due to the civil wars in the north of the country, he added.

Lately, the committee sent foodstuffs and medicine to Chad, Sudan and Eritrean refugees in eastern Sudan. All relief consignments were accompanied by volunteers from Kuwait to ensure distribution of the aid, Al Bahar said.

So far, Africa's Muslims committee distributed 60,000 tons of foodstuffs and medicine totaling \$15 million.

It also constructed a number of farms and dug-up 502 artesian wells in a number of African countries.

Private sector's contribution praised

THE Minister of State for Housing Affairs Nasser Abdullah Al Roudhan said that the National Housing Authority appreciated the private sector's contribution to the housing projects which activated the local economy.

He disclosed that NHA gave local consultants the opportunity to acquire more practical experience on government projects so as to upgrade their supervision skills.

Al Roudhan pointed out that a total of 4,390 houses on the Quraish housing project had been assigned to 14 consultants for construction supervision and their performance so far had been satisfactory.

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But most papers and commentaries focussed on the growing influence of the pro-Israeli lobby in Congress and the harm that this lobby is causing to US relations with the Arab world.

In its editorial on Sheikh Saad's visit, the Washington Post said, "twice in the past week, friendly Arab governments in the Gulf took steps to buy arms elsewhere after members of Congress — acting, they believed, for the good of Israel — rebuffed their efforts to buy American weapons."

Warned

Meanwhile, the Christian Science Monitor warned as the US Congress is prompting Arab Gulf states to shop elsewhere for weapons to defend themselves.

"The US may lose \$2 billion in arms sales to Kuwait," the paper said. "The US has already lost billions of dollars in potential sales to Saudi Arabia."

It warned that the position of the US Congress might result in "American influence in the region to be undermined." It noted that "Kuwait is an especially crucial supporter of Washington's current policy and naval presence in the Gulf."

The monitor continued, "the problem goes to the heart of Washington's ability to help moderate Arab states meet their defence needs and thus build well-rounded relationships."

The move by the US Senate to block the sale of the Mavericks to Kuwait "could blow the whole deal which took years to arrange ... it is a question of practicality for Kuwait. Would you buy a car that only does one-third of what you need?"

Lobby

The Post explained how "the pro-Israel lobby in Washington fought the (Kuwaiti) deal."

But it concluded, "Its success can only push Kuwait to follow the example of a similarly rebuffed Saudi Arabia and to seek a replacement supplier, which will

Kuwaiti caravans providing best services

ABDUL RAHMAN AL FARES, the Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, has said that the ministry licensed 72 caravans for this pilgrimage season, of which only 56, carrying about 18,000 pilgrims, will go to the holy places. He reported that students at Umm Al Qura University in Makkah had compiled a questionnaire and study on the services for pilgrims and found that Kuwaiti caravans came out on top as a result of their advanced services.

Safety

Caravan owners pay insurance of KD8,000 to the ministry and are expected to provide certain standard services to ensure the safety and comfort of pilgrims. The caravan should be accompanied by an ambulance car, a vehicle for transporting water and a refrigerated vehicle to preserve frozen food-stuffs and meat. Caravan owners are also requested to make sure

that pilgrims with them have a health card and observe public hygiene regulations.

Meanwhile, a Ministry of Public Health spokesman has called on all pilgrims to fully apply standard safety procedures at all times and to avoid crowds, where the risk of contracting infectious diseases is greater.

The spokesman emphasised the importance of medical checks up before pilgrims leave for hajj, as well as some knowledge of first-aid to lessen the pressure on the medical crews during the hajj.

He warned against keeping medical preparations for use in cases of allergic skin reactions with them and advised them to consult medical teams for treatment.

The spokesman affirmed the availability of all medical necessities and well-qualified staff to attend to pilgrims when the need arose.

140 youths register for pearl diving contest

By Mahmoud Mursi

ONE hundred and forty youths between 14 to 20 years of age have registered for the third pearl diving contest scheduled for Aug 18, 1988. The last day for registration was yesterday.

Hassan Rajab the director general and head of the Marine Heritage Committee at the Sea Club said that the main goal is to revive the profession of diving and to preserve its heritage. It is a means of demonstrating to the present generation the hard work their forefathers underwent to provide the necessities of life.

The official commented that preparations are proceeding according to plans and the training camp started a month ago.

Enhance

The training camp includes other activities besides training participant's in diving skills. It is a good opportunity for youths to enhance their general knowledge on marine culture and to have hands-on experience with the sea he stated.

Participants are picked-up from their houses at 7:30 am every day and returned at 7:30 pm to attend programmes on diving operations he added.

Shaker Al Sahli, another participant will play the role of "Saib" on this diving trip. He added that the diving trips would enable him to come back to modern life with new spirits.

150 graduate from Petrol Training Centre

KUWAITI students numbering 150 recently graduated from the Petrol Training Centre which is affiliated to the Kuwait National Petroleum Corporation.

The graduates had passed the theoretical course in a prelude to practicals scheduled to take place at Kuwait's three refineries situated in Al Ahmadi, Mina Abdullah and Shuaiba.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, the general supervisor of Planning and Manpower Development at the corporation Abdul Aziz Al Duaij said that the corporation had mobilised all its potentials towards providing the necessary exception documents.

Another point he made concerned the unceasing efforts at GCC level to fight organised and individual crime through close co-operation and co-operation programmes, which were progressing satisfactorily.

New Muslims

THE Awqaf and Islamic Affairs department in Ras Al Khaimah said that 33 persons embraced Islam since the beginning of this year. The department added that 19 were Filipinos, followed by 7 from India, 6 Sri Lankans and one from Ghana.

This lecture comes at the end of a Kuwaiti art exhibition.

Several politicians, intellectuals and journalists are invited to attend Dr Rumaihi's lecture.

10 temporary slaughter houses to be established during Eid

first and second days of Eid Al Adha which is expected to fall in the last week of this month.

He added that the houses will operate for two days in two shifts, the first from 6.00 am to 12.00 noon while the second from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

Ban

Al Umari pointed out that three of these houses will be situated in the capital governorate, four in Hawalli, 2 in

Ahmadi and one in Jahra governorate.

He disclosed that the Kuwait Municipality in co-operation with the Ministry of Interior will ban the slaughter of sacrifices in other places or by private butchers. Further, he said, the authorised houses would slaughter only sheep.

The vice-president said that slaughtering will be done in tents to be erected by co-operative societies. The charges for slaughtering will be KD4 per head, with KD3.50 being paid to the butcher and 50 fils divided between the municipality and the cooperative union.

The official added that butchers had to pass a medical examination for taking part in the Eid sacrifices. The main purpose of this project is to reduce the pressure on government slaughterhouses and regulate the slaughtering of Eid sacrifices he said.

Found

CURRENCY and ID card in the name of Akhtar Hussain, s/o Sherzwan, Afghan, found. Concerned is requested to contact Arab Times Advertising Department.

Sheikh Sabah receives message from Tareq Aziz

ACTING Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday received a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz delivered by Iraqi Foreign Undersecretary, Nouri Al Luwas.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that the message deals with mission of the seven-member Arab committee that is assigned to follow up Iraq-Iran war developments.

The spokesman emphasised the importance of medical check-ups before pilgrims leave for hajj, as well as some knowledge of first-aid to lessen the pressure on the medical crews during the hajj.

He warned against keeping medical preparations for use in cases of allergic skin reactions with them and advised them to consult medical teams for treatment.

The spokesman affirmed the availability of all medical necessities and well-qualified staff to attend to pilgrims when the need arises.

Customs inspectors praised

IN an interview with a local daily, the deputy director general at Kuwait's customs, Mohammad Al Rifai, praised the vigilance of the Kuwaiti customs inspectors towards foiling of smuggling activities.

Al Rifai said that smugglers throughout the world daily improvised more than 200 ways of cheating customs check points and added that the training courses imparted to Kuwaiti inspectors, contributed in no small measure towards preventing smuggling.

The official lauded the role of the Kuwaiti girls in the process of inspection at the border centres.

He advised passengers whose health conditions required the usage of pills to bring a photocopy of the medical prescription issued by a doctor from Kuwait or abroad.

Al Rifai concluded by stating that the travel season coupled with the hajj pilgrimage will cause extra efforts to inspectors and necessary measures are being taken to meet the increase.

Preparations to face any summer fires

THE director of the fire fighting department, Jasem Al Masouri, said that preparations at the department to face any summer fire accidents are progressing very well.

A number of development projects are under review and more Kuwaiti youths are now joining the department after more incentives were provided to fire fighters, he added.

The department's future development projects include communications development meant to organise the distribution and activities of fire trucks and vehicles; including fire training courses to improve the personnel's abilities, he said.

He disclosed that more than 755 Kuwaiti youths submitted applications to join the fire fighting forces this year — out of which only 150 men will be chosen.

He advised residents to accompany their children when going out for sea activities to avoid drowning accidents.

The paper quoted the Kuwaitis as saying they will accept the package only if it remains intact, and their Crown Prince and Prime Minister is in Washington to press his country's case, backed by the agreement with Moscow as a warning that Kuwait can shop for arms anywhere," the paper noted.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audience

HH the Amir yesterday received acting Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

US arms sale to Kuwait

A KUWAITI newspaper yesterday faulted the US Senate for blocking part of an arms sale to Kuwait and indicated that America's own interest would be the side to be hurt most by the Senate's attitude.

By blocking the sale of the Maverick missiles to Kuwait, "the big countries will be the side to be hurt most by the Senate's attitude," said Al Rifai.

In question was an arms deal under which Kuwait would purchase 40 F-18 aircraft and other military hardware which was to include the Maverick missiles.

Kuwait, the paper added, has the means and options to do its military shopping anywhere else and to obtain the quantities and quality it is seeking.

Al Rifai said it made it a point to remind the US Senate that the Congress had already made the US lose a multi-billion-dollar deal when it rebuffed a huge Saudi arms order.

The coveted sale went to Britain which agreed to supply the Saudi kingdom with Tomando aircraft, helicopters and other types of weaponry.

Referring to a White House statement which regretted the loss of the Saudi deal to Britain, Al Rifai said with a touch of cynicism:

"We believe we will not have to wait long to know if the White House would be obliged to issue a similar statement expressing regret that Kuwait turned to buy British, French ... and perhaps Chinese, Korean and Soviet weapons."

Linking Israel to the Senate's position, the paper said "if the Senate wanted Kuwait to turn to another arms supplier, Israel is also trying to make America lose another 20 billion dollars."

GULF PRESS

Blocking of arms sales to Gulf states criticised

TWO UAE newspapers yesterday strongly criticised US Congress blocking of weapons sales to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and accused Washington of making Israel's interest predominant in arms deals with the Arabs.

Al Ittihad newspaper commenting editorially on the subject said "discussions of the US Congress Foreign Committee on arms sales to Kuwait is not a bilateral issue between Washington and Kuwait but it infringes the core of pan-Arab policy."

"In brief, the American Congress wants that Washington should not sell weapons except to those states which pursue the orbit of its policy" the paper added.

"For Washington, it does not make any sense to see any country in the world receive defence weapons to defend itself from any aggression ... but the important thing is that American weapons should be only received by pro-American states," Al Ittihad asserted.

"The United States forgets that the weapons being sought by Arab states are for defence purposes against Zionist aggression, and the Congress is determined to accept that the American weapons do not fall in the hands of anti-Israel states."

The Dubai-based English language daily Khaleej Times, said the arms deals just signed by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia with the Soviet Union and Britain respectively are not significant only for their military or monetary value but for their political implications.

Commenting editorially on the issue, the paper said "the two Gulf states' decision to meet their defence requirements from non-American sources is a strong snub to those in Washington who want Israeli interests to be predominant in dealing with the Arabs, as it is also an assertion of one's independence to diversify some sources of arms procurement."

"The determination by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait not to succumb to political blackmail seems paramount in the latest contracts. The two countries turned to two other states when the US Congress repeatedly blocked weapon sales to them, even when backed by Washington administration," it said.

The paper affirmed that Kuwait concluded its contract with the Soviet Union just two days after the US Senate voted to drop air-to-ground Maverick missiles from an arms package out of concern for Israeli security.

VIDEO CORNER

Run-of-the-mill fare

By Shaun Seekins

THE Red Headed Stranger seems a rather inappropriate title as the hero isn't a stranger and doesn't have red hair, but putting that aside is a rather run-of-the-mill western adventure.

Willie Nelson plays a priest who goes to live in a small town with his wife Raysha (Morgan Fairchild) to spread the word among the lost souls. Before you can say "Howdy," he has

converted them and taken on the local bullies, who just happen to own the town's water supply.

However, even though he wins the fight over evil, things at home aren't too great, and eventually Raysha runs off with another man. This somewhat upsets Shea and he rides off into the sunset seeking revenge.

Not Quite Human is typical Disney fodder, but amusing if not always for the right reasons. The kids should love it.

though. The story involves a scientist and his teenage daughter Becky. Dad has been working on creating an Android all his life, and he's just succeeded.

The result is C17 — or Chip — a 17-year-old-American boy. Difference is, he has to plug himself in and recharge every night.

Dad thought of everything, and even programmed him to eat junk food like hamburgers and pizzas — he has a trash imposter to deal with them.

But Vogel (Hiss... Hiss..)

Padraig O'Loingsigh in *The Courier*.

from the Vogel Toy Company is after him to turn him into a fighting machine. Will peace loving Chip be able to save himself and maybe develop emotions along the way?

Julia and Julia is a strange, surrealistic film starring Kathleen Turner and Sting. Turner gives her usual good performance, but from the opening scenes where she is about to be married and the dramatic finale, we are led on a merry dance, hovering between dreams and reality. Was her husband killed in the car accident or did she dream it? Who is the photographer (Sting)? and where does he fit in?

18 Again is another brain swap film along the lines of **Like Father Like Son**. George Burns awakens after a car accident to find that his brain has somehow been transferred to his grandson's body, pretty standard gags and humour but as a tribute to the longevity of George Burns, quite acceptable.

The above films are by courtesy of VFI Fintas/Farwaniya: Video Nau and Video Club, Tel: 5724372.

The Courier is a rare film, an

Irish film which depicts Ireland realistically. It deals unflinchingly with the urban violence, robberies, corruption and serious drug problems which are on the increase in Dublin. Gabriel Byrne plays Val, a ruthless drugs baron and key figure in the Dublin underworld, into which a young motorcycle courier is drawn. When his girlfriend's brother is murdered, the courier sets out to wreak vengeance on Val. Brisk action and some vivid photography of Dublin locations together with a sound track featuring some of Ireland's best rock bands make an interesting film, despite the heavy "Oirish" accent and one or two narrative inconsistencies.

Dynasty continues, also the new soap **Capitol** featuring the behind-the-scenes scandals of the Washington jet-set.

Nunn's vapid **Lady Jane or A Room With a View**. Her sulky pout is well suited to moments when Serena has to show spirit, as, when repelling Lord Wrotham, but she has also learnt to smile which is most useful when thumbing a lift off a passing highwayman (Gareth Hunt).

Diana Rigg, swathed in velvet and clutching a brimming brandy balloon, gives a pyro-technic display of the art of going over the top without disappearing completely. And Edward Fox appears to have his tongue firmly in his cheek, although it may be the curious speech impediment he has developed since playing Edward VIII.

This is Lord Grade's first film since **The Biko Inquest** directed by Albert Finney, some four years ago and he has struck a rich vein in spun-sugar escapism which, sensibly, is only being released on video. It would be mauled in the cinema but has the video rental potential of a good, old-fashioned panto dreadful.

Anyone who has guiltily enjoyed Barbara Cartland's harmless nonsense will be riveted by the plus production of a Hazard of Hearts. Of course much of it is quite ridiculous. Particularly enjoyable is Lord Vulcan's small talk "I was just remarking how quick the journey is from London these days," spoken like a man who used the M25 — but this is stuff of high comedy.

Even as Serena's adoring husband reverently presses her for favours, Lord Grade is planning "dangerous love," or a classic tale of intrigue, murder and romance.

A Hazard of Hearts is available on video in Kuwait.

Katherine Ross and Willie Nelson in *The Red Headed Stranger*.

Cartland's vision of perfect love

Barbara Cartland surrounded by the stars of *A Hazard of Hearts*.

"UNHAND me, Lord Wrotham, you make me shudder," she cries. "Oh, how exciting, I long to make you shudder," he growls with a leer.

The above exchange between Helena Bonham Carter and Edward Fox is one of the less sensational moments in *A Hazard of Hearts*, the first film of a Barbara Cartland novelette. It is everything one might expect from the queen of romance and the lord of the dance — Lew Grade, former *Charleston*, champion of the world.

Lord Grade acquired the film right to Miss Cartland's complete works, a coup that should send a shudder through the lending libraries. If reading a Barbara Cartland story is like being drowned in honey, watching one is like being resurrected in the chocolate department of Harrods — thoroughly bad for you but quite irresistible.

The Cartland formula is both sugar-coated and gut-edged: beautiful virgins, handsome heroes, preferably titled, and wicked villains characterised by curling, sardonic lips. The prerequisites are period costume and aristocratic lineage; Miss Cartland does not dabble with the sort of mousy female physiotherapists who fall in love with doctors in Mills and Boon.

Fleshing out the Cartland vision of perfect love on screen has cost £4 million, the price that had to be paid for luring Diana Rigg, Stewart Granger, Christopher Plummer, Edward Fox and Helena Bonham Carter into "a classic tale of intrigue, murder and romance." Anna Massey and Eileen Atkins play servants.

Lew Grade has got his packing absolutely right — a cast

of stars extravagantly dressed by Julie Harris (who did *The Slipper and the Rose*, Bryan Forbes' version of *Cinderella*) and impeccable stately locations at Belvoir Castle and Burghley. It is ideal for those Americans who think the British live in a museum. Indeed, when the film had its television debut in the US, it attracted more viewers in prime time than the blockbusters *Terms of Endearment* and *Star Crazy* showing on rival channels.

A Hazard of Hearts, directed by John Hough, is set in the Regency (good for the costumes), and the heroine is lovely, lissome Serena (Helena

Bonham Carter) who is nice to dogs, horses and old people. Despite these attributes she is orphaned when her Papa (Christopher Plummer) shoots himself after gambling away her hand in marriage to the evil Lord Wrotham (Edward Fox) in a game of dice.

Wrotham, the rotter, then gambles her away to the enigmatic Lord Vulcan who apparently "never loses at anything, never shows any emotion and is cruel to the women who love him. And there have been many." Whew!

Definitely acquired from Rent-a-Rake Casting, new-

comer Marcus Gilbert plays Justin Vulcan as a man who could handle a cigar as big as Lord Grade. Before you can say gadzooks, he has whisked Serena off to live with his sinister, scheming mother (Diana Rigg) who is running the biggest gambling den in Europe in her haunted house. She also has a secret husband locked in the library and an interesting sideline smuggling Parisien silk through the cellar.

A kidnapping, two duels and three deaths later Serena finds True Love. Helena Bonham Carter's performance is actually a great deal more animated than in either Trevor

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONE doesn't need to be a cook to criticize the cooking
— Samuel Johnson, English writer (1709-1784).

Airbus incident

No change in Arab attitude

By Richard Pyle

MANAMA, (AP): Arab governments in the Gulf, while admiring they find the US military presence at times overbearing, are not reshaping policy as a result of the shooting down of an Iranian jetliner by an American warship, diplomats said Saturday.

Nor are there signs of a major change in public opinion during the week since the tragedy, in which all 290 aboard the Iranian A300 Airbus perished when it was destroyed by missiles fired by the US Navy cruiser Vincennes.

The United States "downed the whole region decades ago," said the Arab-language Al-Khalieej, based in the Emirate of Sharjah.

Many Arab officials say privately that while the US naval commitment has helped to bring stability to the volatile oil waterway, they find the Navy's role sometimes oppressive.

A day after the shooting down of Iran Air 655, one Arab diplomat speaking privately said a broadening US role "can only mean more explosive situations."

Blame

A Western diplomat, whose assignment encompasses most of the Arab Gulf governments from Kuwait in the north to Oman on the Strait of Hormuz, said his contacts in recent days indicate that Arab officials feel the war must be blamed for the jetliner disaster.

"They are stunned by the tragedy but they're not blaming the United States — although they are trying now to distance themselves from the Americans as much as possible," said the diplomat, speaking on condition he not be further identified.

Tragedy

"Continuation of the destructive Iraq-Iran war threatens the entire region with more tragedies day after day," said an official source in Bahrain, the island state that allows the United States limited port facilities for its warships.

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"America is not good. Not all, but some people," said Ahmed.

Pillars of Israeli socialism crumbling

By Paul Taylor

TEL AVIV, (Reuter): Pillars of Israeli socialism seem to be crumbling in the Jewish state's 40th anniversary year.

The country's socialised health system and the industrial empire of the Histadrut Labour Federation are in crisis, facing harsh economic realities.

Their woes challenge two long-sacred Israeli principles — the right to equal, free health care and the right to a job.

The Zionist pioneers who founded Israel, led by David Ben-Gurion, were East European Socialists who envisaged a Jewish welfare state with worker ownership of the means of production.

But today, Israel is striving to be a capitalist consumer society, a belated convert to tax cuts and privatisation, under the pervasive influence of the United States.

Its Kibbutz collective settlements and Moshav agricultural co-operatives have suffered painful debt crises and are no longer such a major force in the economy.

Loss

Now the giant trade union-owned Koer Corporation, which employs one third of Israel's industrial labour force and produces 12 per cent of its industrial product, has reported a record loss of \$250 million for 1987.

The deficit was more than double the 1986 figure.

Koer's new managing director, Benny Gaon, told reporters only a revolutionary break from Histadrut's jobs-before-profit ideology would save the conglomerate, which makes every-

thing from metals, chemicals and ceramics to computers.

"Koer will no longer put up with plants that lose money," he warned. Subsidiaries that did not make a profit would be sold or closed.

In words once considered heresy, Gaon declared: "Koer is set to act as an economic, profitable institution and not to provide jobs."

Underlining a determination to shed thousands of workers and sell off losers, Koer put its loss-making alliance tire and rubber subsidiary into receivership and last week had police remove angry workers occupying their factory.

Histadrut secretary-general Yisrael Kesser, Yemen-born head of the labour movement founded by Polish and Russian Jewish Marxists, gave Koer's tough new chief his full backing.

Turnaround

Kesser, a Labour Party member of Parliament, may have sensed that only a radical turnaround in the Histadrut's enterprises could save them from becoming a liability to his party in this year's general election.

The health crisis also involves the Histadrut, whose Kupat Holim Sick Fund provides medical care for 80 percent of the population.

It is locked in a bitter battle with the Finance Ministry over subsidies, doctors' pay and the future of public health care.

Hospital doctors, ambulance crews, anaesthetists and maintenance staff have all been on strike this year, demanding higher wages and more government money to keep the health service functioning.

By Bjorn Edlund

TEHRAN, (Reuter): Signs of war, with posters proclaiming "Death to America," are seen everywhere in Tehran.

Bomb shelters, sandbagged banks and street altars for voting men killed in Iran's conflict with Iraq are poignant evidence that Tehran is the capital of a nation fighting for its life.

Windows are taped to cushion the impact of Iraqi bombs — suspended since March after a month-long battering that sapped morale. At night, Revolutionary Guards man checkpoints at exit roads.

Slogans

But life is deceptively normal in the bustling city set against the majestic Alborz Mountains. By day, it is a dusty cauldron where women must be tormented by the ankle-long chador garments they have to wear under Islamic rules.

Florid slogans abound on city walls, denouncing the United States.

The Revolutionary Guards, young Islamic zealots who see themselves as the guardians of a Middle East policy built around support for Israel.

The United States "downed the whole region decades ago," said the Arab-language Al-Khalieej, based in the Emirate of Sharjah.

Many Arab officials say privately that while the US naval commitment has helped to bring stability to the volatile oil waterway, they find the Navy's role sometimes oppressive.

A day after the shooting down of Iran Air 655, one Arab diplomat speaking privately said a broadening US role "can only mean more explosive situations."

Blame

A Western diplomat, whose assignment encompasses most of the Arab Gulf governments from Kuwait in the north to Oman on the Strait of Hormuz, said his contacts in recent days indicate that Arab officials feel the war must be blamed for the jetliner disaster.

"They are stunned by the tragedy but they're not blaming the United States — although they are trying now to distance themselves from the Americans as much as possible," said the diplomat, speaking on condition he not be further identified.

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Kuwait's Foreign Ministry, in an official statement,

By Kathy Cuddihy

BERT'S life began with a bump: he fell out of a tree shortly after birth. My husband, out walking Oscar, our large Labrador Retriever, discovered the down-covered body just before Oscar drowned the poor thing with a lift of the leg. Quite uncharacteristically, my husband decided to "adopt" the pathetic little creature then and there.

After settling the bird into a makeshift cardboard box 'nest', I spent the entire morning phoning 'authorities' who might be able to give us some life-saving tips. Pet shop owners suggested that we let it die peacefully ... and they would happily sell us a strong, healthy replacement. The SPCA pessimistically insisted that we were fighting a losing battle. Even the head of the local zoo couldn't offer any recommendations. He had never hand-reared new-born birds. My own childhood experiences of trying unsuccessfully to save baby birds stressed that the odds were not favourable.

Not having any expert advice on which to rely, we resorted to the old standby of an eye-dropper. Patiently we fed drops of water and luke-warm milk down its thirsty throat. Then my husband, the man who likes to pretend that he doesn't want to share his life with animals (or birds), came up with a novel idea: pound some dry dog food and mix it with a little warm milk. This would give a bit of substance to the basically boring diet. Oscar was not at all pleased to see his food going to a bird, but he consoled himself with the thought the situation wouldn't last for long.

He was wrong. The bird thrived on the kibble. So much so, that we expected it to start barking any day. Since his survival

Bringing up Bert



seemed assured, we decided "it" had to have a name. "Bert the Bird" seemed as good as any.

Bert soon became agile enough to hop out of his box, so we borrowed a bird cage to confine him for his own safety ... and for the sake of our carpet, which had already seen more than its share of bird poops.

Our first challenge had been Bert's survival. With that success behind us, we now had to teach him how to survive on his own. We had never given flying lessons before, so this challenge proved particularly interesting.

Several times each day, Bert perched on our fingers while we lowered him with enough speed so that he would instinctively spread his wings to maintain balance. Gradually his wings became strong enough for short trial flights. What a triumph! He seemed as delighted as we

were. Oscar was the only one not terribly pleased with the progress — possibly because Bert often used Oscar's back or head as a landing strip.

One thing we could not teach Bert was the birdsong of his species. But we did the best we could. We only hoped that his off-key rendition of "Yankee Doodle" would someday attract enough tone-deaf comrades to ensure his acceptance in the bird world.

Bert may not have been a great singer, but he was a fantastic watchbird. If anyone came near our apartment, Bert let out unrelenting, unholy squawks until we calmed him with the phrase, "Down boy, down."

Poor Bert. He didn't know quite what breed he was supposed to be. He loved to fly onto my husband's chest, burrow through his shirt and curl

up among the hairs for a comfortable evening watching TV. He also had great affection for Oscar, despite the fact that Oscar didn't necessarily return the compliment. As Oscar lay peacefully sleeping, Bert would land on the end of Oscar's nose, then purposefully walk up the snout until he arrived at Oscar's long eyelashes — which Bert would then proceed to groom with tender loving care.

Probably our most important job as surrogate parents was to teach Bert how to feed himself. Unfortunately, he showed absolutely no interest in learning this skill. Bert enjoyed too much the routine and companionship of being hand-fed. In desperation, we eventually made firm little balls of the kibble and milk blend, put a few of them on a plate in his cage, and then perseveringly pushed his head toward the plate. A successful push resulted in his beak stabbing one of the balls. After countless pushes, our efforts finally paid off. Bert could now fend for himself. It was doubtful that he would find quantities of dog food in the wild, but at least he had mastered the hunt and peck system.

By now, Bert had grown so big and strong that he had outgrown his cage. Obviously it was time to let him go. We hoped that all we had taught him would be enough to get him safely started in a life with his own kind.

Sadly, we returned Bert to the tree where he had been found. The great outdoors frightened him at first, but then he spread his wings and flew with a freedom that our apartment had never afforded him.

We never saw Bert again. Nevertheless, I swear I could hear some answering bars of "Yankee Doodle" whenever I whistled the tune in the park.

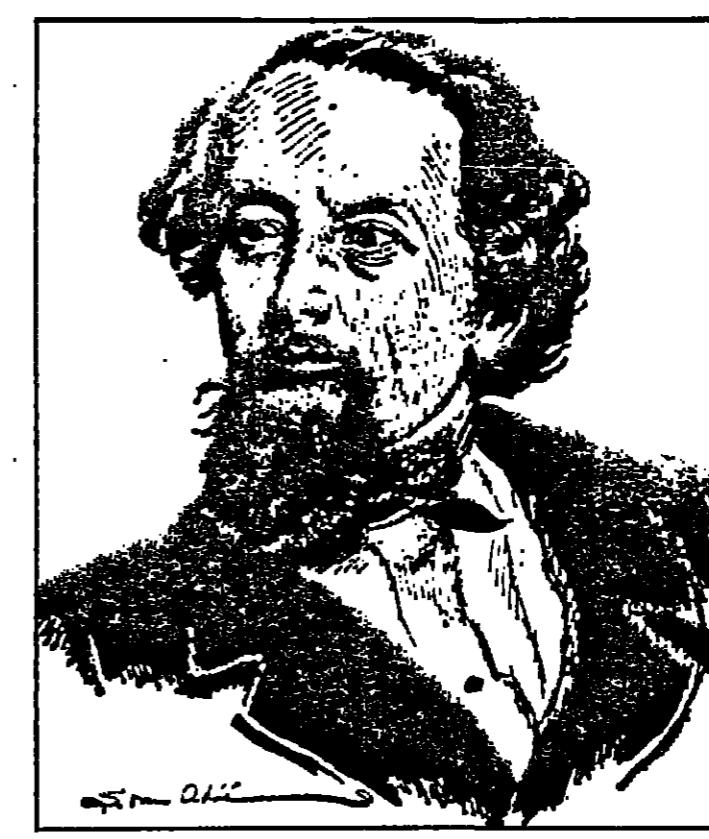
"DO YOU threaten me, sir?" cried Mr Pecksniff.

Martin looked at him, and made no answer; but a curious observer might have detected an ominous twitching at his mouth, and perhaps an involuntary attraction of his right hand in the direction of Mr Pecksniff's cravat.

"I lament to be obliged to say, sir," resumed Mr Pecksniff, "that it would be quite in keeping with your character if you did threaten me. You have deceived me. You have imposed upon a nature which you know to be confiding and unsuspecting. You have obtained admission, sir," said Mr Pecksniff, rising, "to this house on perverted statements, and on false pretences."

"Go on," said Martin, with a scornful smile. "I understand you now. What more?"

"Thus much more, sir," cried Mr Pecksniff, trembling from head to foot, and trying to rub his hands, as though he were only cold. "Thus much more, if you force me to publish your shame before a third party, which I was unwilling and indisposed to do. This lowly roof, sir, must not be contaminated by the presence of one who has deceived, and cruelly deceived, an honourable, beloved, venerated, and venerable gentleman; and who wisely suppressed that deceit from me when he sought my protection and favour, knowing that, humble as I am, I am an honest man, seeking to do my duty in this carnal universe, and setting my face against all vice and treachery. I weep for your depravity, sir," said Mr Pecksniff. "I mourn over your corruption. I pity your voluntary withdrawal of yourself from the flowery paths of purity and peace;" here he struck himself upon his breast, or moral garden; "but I cannot have a leper and a serpent for an inmate. Go forth," said Mr Pecksniff, stretching out his hand "go forth, young man! Like all who know you, I ren-



Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

ounce you!"

With what intention Martin made a stride forward at these words it is impossible to say. It is enough to know that Tom Pinch caught him in his arms, and that, at the same moment, Mr Pecksniff stepped back so hastily that he missed his footing, tumbled over a chair, and fell in a sitting posture on the ground; where he remained without an effort to get up again, with his head in a corner, perhaps considering it the safest place.

"Let me go, Pinch!" cried Martin, shaking him away. "Why do you hold me? Do you think a blow could make him a more abject creature than he is? Do you think that if I spat upon him, I could degrade him to a lower level than his own? Look at him. Look at him, Pinch!"

"I tell you," said Martin, "that as he lies there, disgraced, bought, used; a cloth for dirty hands, a mat for dirty feet, a lying, fawning, servile hound; he is the very last and worst among the vermin of the world. And mark me, Pinch! The day

will come — he knows it; see it written on his face while I speak! — when even you will find out, and will know him as I do, and as he knows I do. He renounce me! Cast your eyes on the renouncer, Pinch, and be the wiser for the recollection!"

He pointed at him as he spoke with unutterable contempt, and, flinging his hat upon his head, walked from the room and from the house.

Martin Chuzzlewit

Editor lets himself go

...Mr. Pott, drawing forth the last number of the Eatanswill Gazette, and referring to the same, delivered himself of the following paragraph:

"Hole-and-corner buffery"

"A REPTILE contemporary has recently sweltered forth his black venom in the vain and hopeless attempt of sullying the

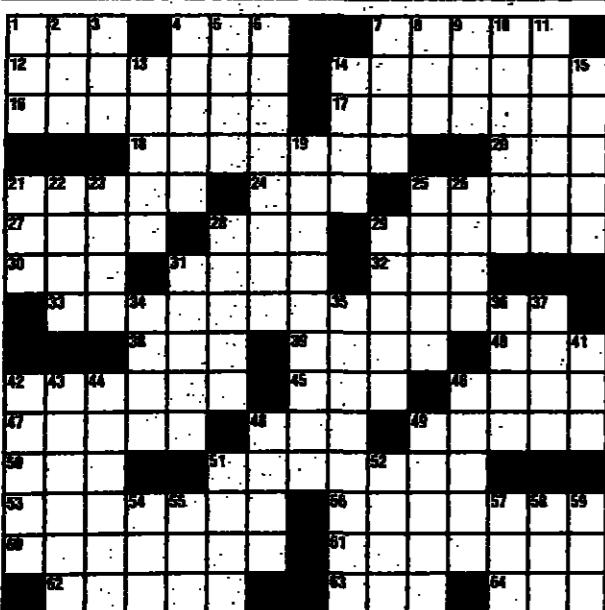
fair name of our distinguished and excellent representative, the Honourable Mr Slumkey — the Slumkey whom we, long before he gained his present noble and exalted position, predicted would one day be, as he now is, his country's brightest honour, and her proudest boast: alike her bold defender and her honest pride — our reptile contemporary, we say, has made himself merry, at the expense of a superbly embossed plated coal-scuttle, which has been presented to that glorious man by his enraptured constituents; and towards the purchase of which, the nameless wretch insinuates, the Honourable Mr Slumkey himself contributed, through a confidential friend of his butler's, more than three-fourths of the whole sum subscribed. Why, does not this crawling creature see, that even if this be the fact, the Honourable Mr Slumkey only appears in a still more amiable and radiant light than before, if that be possible? Does not even his obstinacy perceive that this amiable and touching desire to carry out the wishes of the constituent body, must for ever endear him to the hearts and souls of such of his fellow townsmen as are not worse than swine, or, in other words, who are not as debased as our contemporary himself? But such is the wretched trickery of hole-and-corner Buffery!

These are not its only artifices. Treason is abroad. We boldly state, now that we are goaded to the disclosure, and we throw ourselves on the country and its constables for protection — we boldly state that secret preparations are at this moment in progress for a Buff ball; which is to be held in a Buff town, in the very heart and centre of a Buff population, which is to be conducted by a Buff master of the ceremonies; which is to be attended by four ultra Buff members of Parliament, and the admission to which, is to be by Buff tickets! Does our fiendish contemporary wince? Let him writh, in impotent malice, as we pen the words. We will be there.

"There, sir," said Pott, folding up the paper quite exhausted, "that is the state of the case!"

Pickwick Papers

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

USE FINESSE; DON'T FINESSE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A K Q
♦ J 6 4
♦ K 7 5
♦ K J 8

EAST
♦ 10 9 8 7 4
♦ K 10 9
♦ Q 10 9 3
♦ 3

SOUTH
♦ 5
♦ A Q 2
♦ A 6 4
♦ Q 10 9 7 6 5

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Nowhere is the difference between a tyro and an expert more marked than when it comes to taking a finesse. The relative newcomer can't wait for the opportunity to try win a trick with a lesser card; the pro looks for ways to avoid taking a finesse, because he wants better than even money odds.

Since North's jump to three no trump showed a hand of 16-18 points and a 4-3-3-3 distribution, South decided he would gamble on a

club slam. That might seem risky considering his suit, but he knew his partner held at least three-card support, and it was odds-on that a top honor would be included.

West led a spade, and the great duplication was unfortunate. At first glance it seemed the contract hinged on the heart finesse, since a diamond and a heart could be discarded on dummy's spades. However, declarer found an alternative line, that would work if hearts were 3-3, or if either defender held a singleton or doubleton king of hearts. Those combined chances were better than a finesse — 54-to-50, if you're mathematically inclined.

Declarer took the three top spades, discarding two hearts from hand. He came to hand with the ace of hearts and led a low trump to the eight. East returned a trump (no other suit would have been any better). Declarer won in dummy, ruffed a heart, entered dummy by drawing the last trump, and ruffed another heart. When the king came tumbling down on this trick, declarer could get back to the table with the king of diamonds to cash the jack of hearts for a diamond discard, and a well-played slam rolled home.

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THE WIZARD OF ID

A DRINK BEFORE DINNER, SIRE?

NO, JUST BRING ME THE FRENCH DIP

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

B.C.



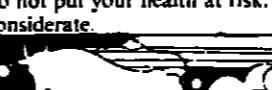
By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS



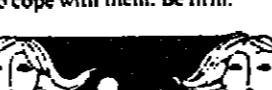
Aries (March 20 - April 19)

You will be able to find the solution to a problem that has long eluded you. Others will be better disposed towards you and you should reciprocate. Make sure you do not put your health at risk. Be considerate.



Taurus (April 20 - May 19)

You should not lose time dealing with secondary matters. Make sure others understand what you have in mind. You will have a few disappointments but you will know how to cope with them. Be firm.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will find it easier to concentrate than you have done of late. You should not allow yourself to be intimidated. Make sure you can meet your existing commitments before taking on any new ones.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

You will have to deal with a rather forceful person. You will find it easier to express yourself clearly. You should ensure that you eat a sensible diet and drink only modestly. Be a little more generous.



Leo (July 23 - Aug. 21)

The situation you are in is improving but there is still a lot that has to be attended to with care. You should make quite sure you have read the instructions before connecting a new device. Watch out for careless drivers. Be punctual.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You are subject to mixed influences and should take more care. Do not leave until later something you know should be tackled now. Do not allow your emotions to boil over. Be more attentive.



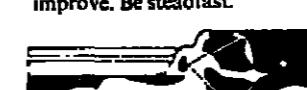
Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will find a lot of satisfaction in something that you are doing. A friend of yours will greatly appreciate hearing from you. You should not think of yourself alone. Be a little more patient.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will have plenty to do so you should not waste time or dissipate your energies. To meet a new challenge you will require new methods. You should seek to improve. Be steadfast.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will tend to be a little too critical and should restrain yourself. It would be nice for you to help others. Avoid allowing yourself to be invaded by negative thoughts. Be affirmative.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You will not quite like the way things are going but you have little choice just now. Events are moving rapidly and seem to be the case and there just no time to lose. You have good reason to be pleased with yourself.



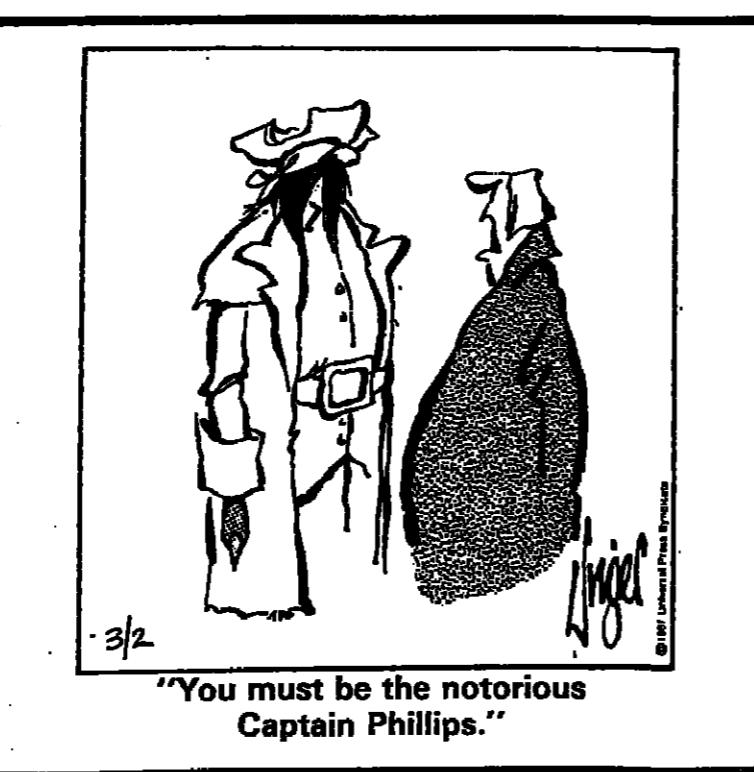
Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will have some success in an area in which you have been lagging behind of late. There is room for a little more optimism. You should consider carefully before making any great changes.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will not be in the best of moods and must beware of offending others. You will be proved right, but you should not rub it in.



You must be the notorious Captain Phillips."

Permanent psychological and physical effects

Steroid problems of the fighting woman

By Lucy O'Brien

IN 1985 Zoe Warwick was Britain's champion woman bodybuilder.

The moment of winning was wonderful. But it nearly wrecked her life. "When a woman bodybuilder goes on stage, she can have a fat level of 5 per cent."

An anorectic has 10. The only way a woman can achieve that and still maintain muscle size is by taking drugs," she says. Zoe now trains actors, works out in Golds Gym, Covent Garden and no longer competes. The use of steroids, she claims, ruined her career.

Steroids abuse is one of sport's most controversial subjects. In body building, a sport which increasingly attracts women competitors, the problem is at its most complex.

tion of steroid abuse, attitudes have polarised.

This was best shown in the 1986 movie Pumping Iron II, the exhilarating docu-drama of international competition which pitted the "very strong powder puff" desirability of Rachel McLish, "body-shaper," against the Australian Bev Francis, former weightlifter turned bodybuilder.

whose muscle development stunned the judges and redefined the female form.

The controversy over "shaping" and "building" continues to rage. Recently Ms Olympia, Corinne Everson, claimed:

"Most women are turned off by female bodybuilders in their contest shape; they are more interested in toning their muscles than increasing their bulk."

For a man, steroid induced growth appears as an "extension" of his masculinity, while for a woman it seems to be an abomination of her femininity, and can be physically and psychologically devastating.

Now aged 28, Zoe Warwick came to London seven years ago after a stint in the WRAF.

training for her PTI degree. Once qualified she decided to teach in a gym "specialising in weights because I like changing people's shapes."

This led her into competitive bodybuilding and a scene that was rapidly transforming itself for women, moving from simple entertainment to power pose.

Warwick was hailed as "the coming of the new type," constantly compared to former champion, Carolyn Cheshire, a tall personable competitor with the angle and attitude of a cat-walk model, versus Zoe's five foot two inches and rippling shoulders.

For Zoe, her biceps were there to shock, challenge, intimidate, a retort to the girls who bullied her at school.

Originally from Morecombe, she was sent to a Newcastle boarding school at the age of 12, after the death of her parents.

A forlorn, angry teenager inspired by Oga Korbut's stomach muscles, Zoe decided to channel her aggression into weights and become "a force to

be reckoned with."

Years later she was training in London, immersed in complex bodybuilding programmes. "Then I wasn't taking steroids. Only men did that."

Her aim was to become physically streamlined, to exhibit the "ripped" symmetrical look favoured by European judges, where muscle is clearly defined and the skin has to hug paper thin.

Once Warwick achieved this particularly difficult shape, she was propelled to overall British champion and an international class.

Logic

It was then that the rigours of competition demanded more than a controlled diet. In 1985 she was selected for the prestigious Pro-Am contest in Ohio, and was suddenly up against American bodybuilders whose vogue is for a bigger bulk image known as "cut." With just six weeks to train, Warwick couldn't face the prospect of walking onstage knowing she would lose.

"I realised I'd be up against women on steroids. I lost my logic and started taking them—anything to take a pot shot at Bev Francis." The contest was a disillusionment. "I was outclassed. The women were huge: girls were dropping steroids backstage, and you could see the injection marks on their backs.

With the rigours of competition demanded more than a controlled diet. In 1985 she was selected for the prestigious Pro-Am contest in Ohio, and was suddenly up against American bodybuilders whose vogue is for a bigger bulk image known as "cut." With just six weeks to train, Warwick couldn't face the prospect of walking onstage knowing she would lose.

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Change

It was six months before Warwick acknowledged the changes. By then her health was beginning to fail. Steroids masked illness and injury to such an extent that she collapsed onstage during a show, unaware of her own pain and exhaustion.

But it was the psychological effect that led to Zoe's eventual rejection of steroids: when she was being mistaken for a man and felt more comfortable walking into men's toilets. "It's all right being a tomboy



Zoe Warwick: Britain's champion body-builder. Steroids, she claims, ruined her career

through your own choice—but this was alienating me from my own sex."

Steroids have left her with permanent kidney and liver damage, aside from other health complications. Though adamant that "this is no sob story," she is launching an information campaign, particularly for women body-builders, encouraging them to think twice before trusting their muscles to chemical hormones.

"I'm not saying ban steroids outright; they'll always be around—but there should be a system for monitoring it. In the US it's illegal, but you can go to doctors for medical supervision."

Norman Hibbert of the National Amateur Body Builders Association (NABA), is an instructor who takes a different view, campaigning for Sports Council grants to fund compulsory steroid testing and banning in bodybuilding. "Drug taking has gone on for too long and too far. But the worst thing now is that teenagers are taking them before they've reached a proper

physical foundation."

Aligning herself to the more "liberal" English Federation of Body Builders (EFBB), Zoe Warwick argues: "No one can help a junkie like an ex-junkie." Charting a way through the barrage of dubious scientific "anabolic nutrition /natural steroids" jargon, she is looking for sound information to be made available. "I only had the idiots in the gym to listen to. I had the top title in the land, took steroids, and blew my career. All I can say to women is, d'you wanna be me?"

Advent

For the track and field athlete, performance is all but for the bodybuilder the "look" is vital: the rip, the cut, the tuck and the sheer bulk is judged.

The drug can be used like an artificial testosterone to increase the appearance of muscle size. Even the semblance of muscle growth is enough to send competitors steroid searching.

Since the advent of stiffer competition and the prolifera-

Image problem for Mrs George Bush

With American politics so geared to imagery, silver-haired Barbara Bush is being kept under wraps as her husband's campaign aides devise a strategy for the autumn election.

that could mean a continuing low profile role for his wife. Or could it?

While Kitty Dukakis, her likely rival for the First Lady slot, is cramming as many interviews as possible into her schedule, Mrs Bush is keeping the press at arms length, which seems to be a mistake.

Mrs Bush was equally as acid-tongued, but more circumspect. She said she was unable to articulate the word that best described Mrs F. "but it rhymes with rich."

Imagery

With American politics so geared to imagery, Mrs Bush is not being trotted out like other wives to stand by her man on podiums, with a far-away Bambi-look in her eyes (à la Nancy Reagan in 1980) or with her chubby hand in his, dancing in the darkened lounge of an airline terminal (à la Kitty Dukakis last month).

In what so far has been a damage-limiting election campaign by the Vice-President, she has stayed at home at such critical times as his no holds barred duel with Senator Bob Dole in New Hampshire. It is said her absence was because it was thought she might harm his chances by either her looks or her sharp tongue.

Even now, Mrs Bush is being kept under wraps as her husband's campaign aides devise a strategy for the autumn election. The contest is sizing up to be one of the closest races in years with the Vice-President, loaded with Iran-Contra baggage and invisible-man troubles, now being cast as the probable underdog. A position

in our lives. Really. We realised that we had each other. We realised there are a lot of other people out there who have a lot less than we do, and we had so much."

Of her buxom lifelines, she says: "All your friends say: 'Just because you have white hair, doesn't mean you have to dress like George Bush's grandmother.' But I think I'm reassuring people out there. I mean, I am not Bo Derek."

In fact, like her husband, she is at her best when in a corner, with newspapers trying to draw blood. Her spare comments for the public record reveal a lady who is probably better at campaigning than her husband. "I am a very boring interview, you know," she told one reporter.

Marvellous

A publisher's daughter, she married at 19 and says she is still in love. Their daughter, Robin, died of leukaemia at four. "I couldn't put my right foot in front of my left, but George was really good about sharing the grief."

"After it was over, he was marvellous. He got me laughing again. I know that sounds terrible to say, but he did. We had a memorial service for the little girl... and George said: 'Come on. It's going to be a great wake.' And for some reason it made me laugh. I don't know why. And now she's one of the happiest things



Mr and Mrs Bush in China. She has to put up with journalists searching for adjectives like honest and tender.

stream of well-meaning letters from those who want her to look young making her "mad as the dickens." If she dyed her silver hair "I think America would fall flat on its face from astonishment."

Influence

She claims her influence on her husband is slight, citing the fact that George is against controls on guns, while she believes the opposite. She refuses to discuss her views on abortion which are also said to conflict with those of the Vice-President, who is against such operations.

She has lived with her husband in 30 houses from Houston to Peking, and admits that she is square. "There's nothing that gripes me. I have a theory that you ought to be happy with what you're doing."

On equal rights, she leans towards the view that women have to learn that "you can't have everything," and that "you can't, in my opinion, be a bank president and a full-time mother." She realises that there are women who could not afford to stay at home, but she says, "I'm getting to be more independent."

Home is so important that sacrifices must be made, perhaps for the first five years of a child's life. "We can't turn our backs on children." However she expects to vote for a woman president in her lifetime.

In recent weeks she has been taking a slide show around the country, with scenes of life with George including both of them in their pyjamas at their country home.

But life on the campaign trail is not easy, especially when she faces rumours of her husband's infidelity.

More recent and perhaps more scientifically acceptable explanations stem from newly gained knowledge about sleep. It is now known that we pass through different stages of sleep during our rest. There are four such stages. The first is the lightest with each successive stage being a deeper sleep. Sometimes as our body goes from stage three to stage four sleep there is a sudden surge of electrical activity from our brain which stimulates all the muscles and makes them contract sharply. This will then cause the jerking sensation that you feel. Not everyone has this experience and, of course, you may not have this happen to you each evening. The most important thing to remember is that this is normal and nothing to be concerned about.

QUESTION: I always have been curious to know why I sometimes experience a sharp jerky movement soon after I have fallen asleep.

ANSWER: This type of jerking activity of the muscles of the body is quite common. It occurs when there is simultaneous contraction of all the muscles in the body causing

How to succeed in science without a Y chromosome

By Metta Winter

ITHACA, N.Y.: Under the present educational system in the United States it takes 2,000 ninth-grade girls to produce one woman with a doctorate in science or engineering, according to a recent study conducted by the congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

The statistic is startling when placed in the context of demographic projections for the future production of doctoral-level researchers. According to both the Office of Technology Assessment and the National Science Foundation (NSF), there will be a 38 per cent decrease in US students receiving doctorates in the natural sciences by the year 2000 if present trends continue.

Women represent the largest potential source of people to fill the rapidly growing shortage in scientific and technical personnel expected within the next two decades.

One of the most important offsetting trends is the rapid increase in the participation of women across all fields of science and engineering, says Sheila Widnall, professor of aeronautics and astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr Widnall is also chairman of the board of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Although the percentage of women receiving doctorates in natural sciences and engineering has almost tripled since the early 1970s, the current number of women is still quite small — only 200 per 1,000.

Goal

According to Widnall, if the number of women could be increased by just a factor of 2.5 — more than double but less than triple — the predicted shortfall in scientific and technical expertise could be avoided altogether.

To meet this quite modest goal, efforts need to be concentrated in three areas: mathematical training in the elementary grades, support in making career choices between high school and college, and encouragement of women at the graduate school level.

Financial assistance that offers major responsibility for research projects; access to academic resources; frequency and quality of feedback on research performance; opportunity

to publish, and particularly to be first author on publications; recognition of value and potential as a professional through unbiased evaluation of resumes, proposals, and papers; and treatment that emphasises one's status as a student instead of one's gender as among the critical areas in which women graduate students reported a comparative lack of faculty support.

Yet it is appropriate support in these areas that gives a student access to a variety of professional experiences designed to enhance self-confidence, build independence, and acquire and practice the skills that will be crucial later on.

Clearly the system needs to change. But until it does, somewhere students must get from somewhere else the kind of care and support that have traditionally been lavished on men in graduate school. Hence, the coming together of 13 element women scientists from industry, academia, and medicine to give them just that.

Brimful of practical, career-related information, the day-long conference was a good start for the more than 400 women graduate students who attended. "You can't do it all in a day," noted Dr Newman, "but it is important to let women know the topics that will be important to them."

The spirit of the event was perhaps best exemplified by the opening address, "How to Succeed in Science Without a Y-Chromosome," delivered by chemist Ann Briscoe, director of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons Biochemistry Laboratory, vice-chairman of the New York City Commission on the Status of Women, and one of the founders of the Association for Women in Science.

"What brought me here," said this distinguished scientist who was born two years before women got the vote, "is a sense of mission. Your country needs you to become its scientists, research workers, teachers of science, and inventors."

1988, The Christian Science Monitor.

FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALAN BRUCKHEIM

SOME DOCTORS TREAT COMPULSIVE GAMBLING AS A DISEASE

QUESTION: I am facing some very serious problems and need to have my question answered. Is compulsive gambling really a disease?

ANSWER: There is a good deal of debate within the medical community over whether compulsive gambling is an actual disease. There is, however, little doubt that compulsive gambling is a growing problem in the United States — a problem that may require treatment for many individuals.

Doctors who treat compulsive gamblers do consider it a disease and believe it is a chronic and progressive illness.

The patient has become obsessed with the urge to gamble, and the urge exceeds the person's control. Eventually, this leads to disruptions in the gambler's life, causing problems on the job, in his or her family, and legal problems.

Once the compulsive gambler runs out of money, he or she may take out illegal loans to continue the self-destructive pattern of gambling.

This psychological affliction takes its toll physically, with the person's eating and sleeping patterns becoming erratic. A feeling of helplessness and hopelessness comes

over the gambler, who may suffer acute anxiety attacks, become severely depressed and often turn to alcohol and drugs. Some people use gambling to escape ordinary problems of life. They use it as a way to overcome loneliness and avoid rejection.

Fortunately, compulsive gambling is a "treatable" condition, and the treatment has a high success rate. In severe cases, where the gambler may become suicidal, hospitalization is necessary. Treatment focuses on helping the patient stop gambling — all gambling — as well as all other addictive behaviours.

Many gamblers can be treated as outpatients, with psychotherapy. Self-help groups like Gamblers Anonymous are beneficial. It is also very useful for family members to join groups such as Gam-Anon.

ANSWER: This type of jerking activity of the muscles of the body is quite common. It occurs when there is simultaneous contraction of all the muscles in the body causing

you to jump and wake up.

Physicians used to believe that this was provoked by a primitive reflex that has remained with us from the days of our primitive, tree-dwelling ancestors. The theory states that the reflex prevented an individual from falling from trees once they had gone to sleep.

More recent and perhaps more scientifically acceptable explanations stem from newly gained knowledge about sleep. It is now known that we pass through different stages of sleep during our rest. There are four such stages. The first is the lightest with each successive stage being a deeper sleep.

Sometimes as our body goes from stage three to stage four sleep there is a sudden surge of electrical activity from our brain which stimulates all the muscles and makes them contract sharply. This will then cause the jerking sensation that you feel.

Not everyone has this experience and, of course, you may not have this happen to you each evening. The most important thing to remember is that this is normal

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Iraq-S. Yemen pact signed

BAGHDAD, July 12, (OPEC): A five-year agreement on economic, trade, technical and scientific co-operation between Iraq and South Yemen was finalised here yesterday.

The accord was signed by Iraqi Minister of State Mohammed Mehdi Saleh and South Yemen's Minister of Energy and Minerals Saleh Abu Bakr.

Speaking at the ceremony, Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said the agreement was an expression of the two countries' keenness to further develop bilateral cooperation.

Earlier, the two countries signed an agreement on cultural and information co-operation.

Abu Bakr, who arrived here on Sunday, also held talks with Iraqi Minister of Oil Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi on enhancing co-operation in the energy field.

Traders focus on excess world crude supplies

US oil prices plunge to 20-month low

NEW YORK, July 12, (UPI): Oil prices plunged by as much as 68 cents a barrel yesterday despite an OPEC announcement that its pricing committee will meet after a top official visit a key member that has defied the group's production restraint accord.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, West Texas Intermediate — the benchmark US crude for immediate delivery — plummeted 68 cents to \$14.78 a barrel to its lowest level in 20 months.

West Texas Intermediate sank 55 cents to \$15.10 a barrel in spot trading on the US gulf coast, where oil is sold to the highest bidder.

Analysts said traders' focus remained fixed on excess world crude supplies that have driven the average price of a barrel of oil

down by \$2 a barrel over the last several weeks.

The analysts said traders were not encouraged by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' announcement that its five-member pricing committee will meet soon.

The committee, which is empowered to call for an emergency meeting of the full 13-nation organisation, will gather after a visit to the UAE by its new secretary-general, Subroto, the official OPEC news agency said.

OPECNA said in a dispatch from the group's Vienna headquarters that Subroto, who is the former Indonesian oil minister, will visit the UAE "to deliver a message ... concerning the current oil market situation to the nation's president."

Late last month the UAE announced it would boost its daily crude output to 1.5 million barrels a day, far exceeding its 948,000 barrels-a-day production ceiling under OPEC's production agreement.

Twelve of the group's 13 nations agreed at their regular summer meeting in Vienna last month to extend through the end of the year a 15.06 million barrels-a-day limit on their collective production.

"Pending the result of the OPEC secretary-general's visit, a meeting of the price committee will take place," OPECNA said.

Oil market participants, however, were more interested in reports that the organisation's production in June had risen to between 19 million and 19.5 million barrels a day — far in excess of global demand for

OPEC oil, which has ranged from 17.5 million to 18 million barrels a day in recent weeks.

The selling was "fundamental, not technical," said one analyst. "People are discouraged despite the fact they're calling for a pricing committee meeting. The fact is people are looking at OPEC overproduction and they don't like it."

Prices of refined products fell in what analysts labelled profit taking after the large gains over the past two weeks.

On the MERC, unleaded gasoline for August delivery fell 1.04 cents to \$2.13 cents a gallon. Gasoline had risen by nearly five cents a gallon last week.

Home-heating oil for August delivery plummeted 2.06 cents to 41.33 cents a gallon.

In London, oil prices slumped

but then recovered slightly yesterday after OPEC said its price watchdog body will meet to consider steps to mop up a glut of oil.

Prices fell by more than 50 cents yesterday when the authoritative Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) newsletter said an emergency meeting of the OPEC was unlikely.

But prices bounced back by 15 to 20 cents a barrel when the OPEC news agency reported from Vienna that the five-man price monitoring committee — which can call an emergency meeting of OPEC — would meet.

The five ministers will gather after OPEC's new secretary-general, former Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto, visits the UAE to discuss its rejection of its 948,000 barrels a day production quota set by OPEC.

World Business Summary

UK bank setting up separate unit to handle Third World debt

LONDON, July 12, (AP): Midland Bank PLC announced today it is setting up a new division to combine its commercial and investment banking operations in developing countries and demonstrate "a greater commitment to debt-equity swaps." The unit will handle debt rescheduling and day-to-day banking operations that previously were part of the bank's international division, as well as asset trading units that were part of Midland Montagu, Midland's investment banking arm. It will also set up its own tax and accounting team to deal solely with the bank's business in developing countries. In a debt-for-equity swap, a bank converts its loans to a country into equity investments in local companies. The bank said the new unit, called the developing countries division, is aimed at reducing Midland's exposure to Third World debt and will include a team to oversee debt-for-equity conversions in industrial companies. It said the division will manage loans totaling about \$7 billion, most of it to Latin America but also some to Africa and the Philippines. Most of Midland's debt swaps have been for investments in Latin American financial groups, mainly in Brazil and Uruguay. Midland also helped set up a debt conversion fund in Chile.

UN commodity fund wins enough support to begin operations

GENEVA, July 12, (Reuters): A long-dormant United Nations accord aimed at aiding Third World commodity producers has won enough support to begin operating, an UN spokesman said today. Spokesman Graham Shanley of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said ratification of the agreement yesterday by the Indian Ocean Republic of the Maldives meant UNCTAD's Common Fund for Commodities could now come into force. Shanley said UNCTAD Secretary-General Kenneth Dadike would call a meeting of states that have ratified the accord to fix a starting date. The fund, negotiated in 1980, was originally seen as a central pool of finance that could be used to buy commodities on world markets to keep prices stable. But UNCTAD officials have put more emphasis recently on using the fund to finance commodities research and development.

Japanese trade surplus continued to fall

TOKYO, July 12, (Reuter): Japan's trade surplus with the rest of the world continued to fall in June, dropping to \$5.93 billion from \$6.6 billion a year earlier, the Finance Ministry said today. The key trade surplus with the United States fell to \$3.63 billion from \$4.01 billion a year ago, it said.

The total trade balance in the first six months of this year plunged to a \$33.66 billion surplus from \$40.04 billion in the same period last year.

Tokyo currency dealers said the figures had little effect on the US dollar, because they were within market expectations.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno said Japan will soon set up a government task force to study reforms in its foreign aid plans and programmes.

Uno told reporters the task force, to be headed by chief cabinet minister Keizo Obuchi, will study recommendations by

US lacks qualified workers

WASHINGTON, July 12, (UPI): The United States faces a crippling lack of qualified workers to perform increasingly complicated tasks required by a fast-changing, technologically advanced economy, the government said yesterday.

The skills gap hurts America's competitiveness in a global marketplace and costs business billions of dollars in training expenses that otherwise would go to more productive means.

Concluded

The study, prepared by the Departments of Labour, Commerce and Education, concluded the nation's schools must be strengthened through fundamental education reforms and that businesses and communities must assume greater responsibility to produce a competent workforce.

"If we fail to meet this challenge ... we're going to see more and more jobs exported to foreign countries," said James Burge, vice-president of Motorola Inc., at a round table discussion. The conference was held to coincide with release of "building a better workforce."

Assume

Education Secretary William Bennett said minority students, who must assume a growing role in the American workforce, are hit especially hard.

"Too many of today's children, particularly those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, are not getting the education to which they are entitled."

Hector Barreto, chairman emeritus of the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, said he

Farm reform plans limit Soviet flexibility in grain talks

VIENNA, July 12, (Reuters): Moscow's top grain buyers said this weekend that Soviet efforts to raise farm output meant it could not oblige the Americans to buy more US grain, stalling major trade talks here.

The biggest importer and biggest exporter of grain ended a third round of negotiations on renewing a grain trade agreement in a stalemate on Friday.

A major difference was on a US call for Moscow to raise the volume of grain which, under the pact, it guarantees to buy.

Trying

"We are trying to increase grain production and give people better food on their tables," said Oleg Klimov, director-general of the Soviet grain-buying agency, Exportkliet.

"How can we at the same time sign an agreement with the United States to buy more grain than last year?"

It would not be politically feasible, he said. In the new spirit of openness under Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, it would be criticised for flying in the face of proclaimed economic reforms, he said.

The current five-year US-Soviet grain accord expires on September 30. Another meeting is expected before then.

The Soviet side wants a lower

Al Ahli Bank to acquire shares

THE Kuwait Al Ahli Bank has been authorised to acquire shares worth KD8.3 million, according to current prices of the bank's shares traded in the local stock market, it was announced yesterday.

The announcement was made by Governor of Kuwait's Central Bank, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, who said that he gave the approval yesterday to the bank.

The recommendations also called for simplifying the procedures for small aid projects. Japan surpassed the United States last month as the world's biggest aid donor when it announced a two-fold increase in foreign aid to more than \$50 billion over a five-year period ending in calendar year 1992.

United States \$100 billion by the year 2000.

A second independent study group, the Safe Energy Communication Council, also called for a national energy policy based on fuel efficiency.

It said nuclear power could not reduce US reliance on oil, but energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources such as water could save seven times more oil than nuclear power.

The ACEEE, in its proposals, said the United States should try

to cut its energy use by 2.5 per cent a year well into the next century.

To help achieve this, it proposed a fuel tax of 10 cents a gallon annually for three years.

The ACEEE said the tax would make the price of petrol reflect its real cost to the economy, including the cost of the US fleet in the Gulf protecting oil shipping lanes and the environmental cost of air pollution. Conservation moves, it said,

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)

LONDON (Beta Stocks)

NAME	LAST	LASMO	453.0	NAME	CLOSE	OPEN	HINNETT +F	39/0	40/0	HAMBROS I	218/0	218/0	ROBINSON	402/0	401/0
ABBEY LFE	316.0	LEGAL+GEN	324.5	BOASE HAS	254/0	HEMMER	660/0	661/0	ROCKMORE	69/0	69/0	ROBBIE	361/0	363/0	
ADT LTD	144/0	LOHRHO	251/0	BODDINGTON	172/0	171/0	BEATH(CE)	443/0	442/0	ROHNEY	370/0	38/0	ROSENHAU	745/0	745/0
ALD LYONS	27.09	LUCAS IND	542/0	BOOKER	412/0	412/0	HELENE PL	37/0	38/0	ROTHSCHILD	184/0	184/0	ROTHSCHILD	184/0	184/0
AMSTRAD	211/0	MAGNET	245/0	BORTHWICK	68/0	68/0	RESTAIR	306/0	306/0	ROTORK	200/0	200/0	ROTORK	224/0	225/0
ARGY. L GP	182/0	MARKS+SP	173/0	A.B. ELECT	440/0	438/0	RIGGS HILL	369/0	368/0	RUGBY GRP	139/0	138/0	RUGBY GRP	139/0	138/0
ASA2 GP	150.0	METAL BOX	234/0	BR LAND	345/0	346/0	RIBERS 20P	255/0	257/0	SALVESEN	175/0	173/0	SALVESEN	175/0	173/0
BAA	275/0	MEPC	544/0	BR VITA	238/0	238/0	HOGG TST	224/0	222/0	SAVOY "A"	895/0	895/0	SAVOY "A"	895/0	895/0
BTR	279/0	MIDLAND BK	438/0	BOMATER	412/0	411/0	HOLLIS	109/0	109/0	SCAPA GRP	252/0	253/0	SCAPA GRP	252/0	253/0
BAT INDS	425/0	NEXT	244/0	BOATHORPE	168/0	169/0	HEYWOOD W	302/0	301/0	SCOT HERI	189/0	189/0	SCOT HERI	189/0	189/0
BARCLAYS	416/0	NTH FOODS	365/0	BR ASSETS	69/0	69/4	HICKINS	239/4	240/0	SCOT MET	137/0	137/0	SCOT MET	137/0	137/0
BASS	788/0	P & G DFD	567.5	BR DREDGI	155/0	154/0	HIGGS HILL	369/0	368/0	SCOT MET	107/0	107/0	SCOT MET	107/0	107/0
SEAZER	187.0	PEARL	486/0	BR ECRW	172/0	173/0	HOBART	110/0	110/0	SCOT MET	173/0	173/0	SCOT MET	173/0	173/0
BEFCHEAMS	470/0	PILKINGTON	207/0	BR F&G	251/0	252/0	HOLM	194/0	193/0	SCOT MET	52/0	52/0	SCOT MET	52/0	52/0
BERISFORD	365/0	PRUDENTIAL	169/0	BR ALD	116/0	116/0	HOPKINSON	97/0	98/0	SCOT MET	95/4	95/4	SCOT MET	95/4	95/4
BICE PLC	337/0	RACAL	337.0	BR ALD	221/0	220/0	HOPKINSON	429/0	431/0	SCOT MET	130/4	131/0	SCOT MET	130/4	131/0
BLUE ARMY	114/0	RANGE HVIS	427/0	BR ALD	130/0	131/0	HOTEL BR	186/0	186/0	SCOT MET	137/0	137/0	SCOT MET	137/0	137/0
BLOC CIRC	452/0	RANK ORG	733/0	BR ALD	365/0	365/0	HOTEL BR	221/0	220/0	SCOT MET	107/0	107/0	SCOT MET	107/0	107/0
JOC GP	420/0	RANK TRST	317/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
BOOTS CO	205/0	RANGE HVIS	427/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
BPP INDS	277/0	RANK TRST	317/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
BR COMM	266/0	RCKIT+C0	938.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
BR AIRWAY	148.0	REED	407/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
BR AEPOS	465/0	RYL BK SC	362/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
BR GAS RG	182/0	RYM GRP	475/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
B.P.	260/0	REUTERS	563.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
B.P. NEW	61/0	RTZ CORP.	420/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
B.P.R.T.		ROLLS ROY	144.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
BR TELCOM	252.5	ROTHMAN B	417.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
BURMAN OL	525.0	ROYAL INS	422.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
SUTTON	223/0	ROYAL INS	422.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
CABLEZEWRY	372/0	SAATCHI	373/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
CADBURY'S	394/0	SAIBURG	225/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
COATS VIY	241.0	SCOT+NEW	315/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
COMM INT	377/0	SEARS	120.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
CONS GOLD	071/4	SEDGEWICK	236.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
COOKSONS	265/0	SELL	048/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
COURTAULC	335.0	SMITH IND	272/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
DALGETY	337/0	SMITH+NEPH	130.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
DIXONS	77.00	STORENS	238/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
ENG CHINA	456/0	SUN ALLIA	992/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
ENTER OIL	468/0	TARMAC	30.00	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
FKI BABEC	24.75	TATELYLLE	842/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
FERRANTI	88/0	TESCO	145.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
GEN ACCIO	917/0	THORN EXI	633.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
GEN ELEC	160.0	TRAF HSE	305.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
GIAKO	992/0	TSB	109.0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
GRANADA	304/0	T + N	178/0	BR ALD	370/0	371/0	HOTEL BR	371/0	372/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0	SCOT MET	364/0	361/0
GLOBE	307.0</														

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1988

International Bond Highlights

Tokyo — Hitachi Metals Ltd will issue 240 mn drs in warrant bonds at par through public placement in Europe with Nomura International Ltd as lead manager, the company said. Nomura said later in London that the bond carries an indicated coupon of 4-1/4 pct. (RTVW 1041; RTVW 0813)

Tokyo — Yaohan Store Co Ltd said it is issuing a 100 mn drs five year equity warrant bond, along with an 80 mn Swiss franc convertible note issue. The warrant bond has an indicated coupon of 4-1/4 pct and part pricing, while the convertible notes carry an indicated coupon of 5-1/8 pct and are also priced at par. (RTVW 0851; RTWB 1130; RTVW 0941)

London — KAO Corp has issued a 200 mn drs Eurobond with equity warrants due Sept 30, 1993 with an indicated coupon of 4-1/4 pct, said Daiwa Europe Ltd as lead manager. (RTVW 0880)

Frankfurt — Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp is issuing a seven-year AG 400 mn mark bullet Eurobond with a six pct coupon priced at 101-1/2, lead manager Deutsche Bank AG said. (RTVE 0802)

Bahrain — Saudi Arabia's monetary authorities are introducing a repurchase programme for new government bonds to make them more attractive to the kingdom's banks, bankers said. (RTYK 1409)

Interbank Rates

	CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN	9-1/8 8-7/8	9-13/16 11/16	10-3/8 1/4
FFT	4.50/60	4.65/75	4.90/5.00
PAR	6-15/16 7-1/16	7-7/8 1/4	7-1/4 3/8
ZUR	1-5/8 1-7/8	3-1/2 3-3/4	3-3/4 4
BRX	5.75	6-1/2 9/16	6-13/16 15/16
RON	10 10-1/2	10-5/4 11-1/4	11 11-1/2
AHS	4-1/8 4-3/8	4-3/8 4-1/2	4-3/4 4-7/8
TOK	3,500 5,625	3,9575 4,0000	4,025 1250
ECU	6.75	6.81 6.95	7.06 7.18

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Offered	Bid
1 month	5-3/4	6-1/4
3 months	6-1/8	6-7/16
6 months	6-3/16	6-9/16
1 year	6-1/4	6-11/16

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	61.50	61	62	NICO	565	570	585	
ACC	225	229	GRASIN	45	45.25	45.25	MUKUND	86	87	86	
ASIA PAINT	156.25	155 157.50	GSCF	105.50	107	106	NOCL	440	445	440	
BAJAJ AUTO	257.50	241.25	258.75	KIND LEVER	125	128	127.50	ORKAY	33	32.50	33
BAR. RAYON	232.50	244.50	240	HINDALCO	68	69	70	PEICO	29.50	29	29.50
BON. DYEING	118.50	123	119.50	HINDCOCA	86	87	86	PIZER	64	63	62.50
BR. BOND	89	84.50	90	HINDOTOR	22	22	22	RAYMOND	48.50	48.50	49
BSE INDEX	567.17	579.02	IND ORG	21.50	21.50	21.50	RELIANCE	200	207	205.50	
CENTURYSPG	850 857.50	855	INDRAYON	70.50	71	71.50	SIEMENS	68	67	68	
COLGATE	202.75	217.10	208.75	INDROL	165	162.50	170	SPIC	47	47.50	47.50
DEPAKFER	33.25	33.25	34	ITC	42	42	43	STDMILLS	245	247.50	245
EI. HOTEL	49	47	49	JKT	63.50	65	64.50	TATA PMR	230	225.25	228.50
ESKAIEF	153.75	155	156.25	L AND T	95.50	97	96.50	TATACHEEN	65	69	69
ESSAR	19.25	20	20	MAHINDRA	59	58.50	59	TELCO	637.50	647.50	650
GAR. POLY	79	79	79	MASTERSH	10.12	10.12	10.37	TISCO	782.50	797.50	782.50
GE. SHIP	29.35	30	29.50	MATHER PL	51.25	50	52	VOLTAS	290	285	290

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	MITSUB CP	1220	1220	MITSUB EST	950	932	MITSUB HVY	977	936	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
AEG	200.6	200.6	AIJINMOTO	3110	3120	3120	MITSUB EST	2440	2420	MITSUB HVY	977	936	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
ALLIANZ VR	1505.0	1505.0	AKAI ELEC	665	687	687	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB HVY	977	936	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
BADENWERK	182.0	182.5	AKCI	1030	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB HVY	977	936	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
BAASF	256.9	257.0	ASAHI GAS	1980	1960	1960	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
BAYER	293.0	292.1	ASAHI OPT.	752	772	772	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
BAYER HYP	348.0	354.1	BANK TOKYO	1560	1560	1560	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
BAYER VER	339.0	347.0	BRIDGESTON	1330	1370	1370	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
BBC	303.0	307.0	CANON	1280	1280	1280	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
BHF	409.0	414.0	CASIO CORP.	1240	1250	1250	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
BHM	523.5	525.5	CHUGAI MNG	0	1570	1570	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
COMMERZBK	232.2	236.8	CITIZEN W	872	900	900	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
CONTI GUM	264.0	267.8	D-ICRI KAN	3080	3100	3100	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
DATHNER BEI	713.5	721.0	DAI NIP IK	829	824	824	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
DEUTSC BANK	475.0	482.5	DAI NIP PT	2450	2500	2500	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	1020	1020	MITSUB CO	919	925	MITSUMI EL	1160	1200	MICHICOM	873	860
DLW	355.0	345.5	DAI NIP SC	1080	1110	1110	MOMURA SEC	3820	3860	MOMURA SEC	2000	2000	MOMURA SEC	1000	1000	MOMURA SEC	2000	2000	MOMURA SEC	1000	1000
DRESDNER B.	256.0	244.5	DAICEL	895	912	912	OLYMPUS	1120	1130												
DT BARCOCK	171.5	174.0	DA																		

Wall Street stocks fall**Dollar and gold decline as inflation fears ease**

LONDON, July 12. (Reuter): The price of gold fell today as concern about inflation generally receded, dealers said.

But West Germany remained concerned that a strong dollar would boost its inflation rate by pushing up the cost of imports. Its central bank intervened in currency markets again today to cap a dollar rally that began a month ago and the US currency dipped accordingly in Europe.

Shares

Wall Street stocks fell, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average down 12.09 points to 2,099.22 at midday in New York. London shares also dropped but the Tokyo market edged higher.

Gold was fixed at \$433.80 an ounce in London this afternoon, down \$3 from yesterday's afternoon.

Bullion is a favoured hedge against inflation.

Lower oil prices helped to dampen inflation fears. Texas crude prices are at 20-month lows and Brent Crude oil from the North Sea plunged 70 cents a barrel today to go below \$14 for the first time since mid-March.

But US wheat, corn (maize) and soybean prices rose again. They fell yesterday after weekend rains eased fears that drought in the US Midwest threatens this year's crop and could push food prices up.

As a result, the bullion market remained jittery.

"Although inflation is not

expected to reach 'problem' levels over the next 12 months, we reiterate that inflationary expectations are rising," said London dealers Kleinwort Grieson-Sharps Pixley in their latest precious metals monitor publication.

Driven

"It is expectations which have driven gold in the past and will do so in the future," Kleinwort added.

Meanwhile, the dollar shed nearly a pfennig to close at 1,8370 West German marks. It dipped a third if a yen to 132.60 and slipped to 1,6950 dollars to the British pound sterling.

The (central bank) intervention has finally worked. The dollar is lower," said a bank treasurer in Frankfurt. West Germany's Bundesbank has intervened to try slowing the dollar's rise every day since the start of July.

Walling

Other economic analysis were less sure. A narrowing trade deficit and strong economic growth in the United States has boosted the dollar's value by seven per cent in just one month.

Many traders expect the next US trade report containing figures for May due out on Friday will confirm the trend, no matter how aggressively the central banks intervene.

"Everyone is waiting for the trade numbers. People expect the ranges to get narrower as each

day goes by until then," said Tom Benfer, a New York dealer with the Bank of Montreal.

And, although the Belgian Central Bank intervened today, some dealers are unsure how interested central banks besides the Bundesbank are in capping the dollar's rise.

"The amount of money the central banks have thrown at the dollar has been quite pathetic with the exception of the Bundesbank and even it knows intervention can have only a limited effect," said Nigel Green, assistant director of foreign exchange at EBC Amro in London.

Meanwhile, the US dollar fell in Tokyo today after fluctuating due to conflicting remarks on exchange rates by monetary officials, dealers said.

News that Japan's June trade surplus dropped to \$5.93 billion compared to 6.6 billion a year ago had little effect because it was within market expectations, they said.

Down

The dollar closed at 132.70 yen and 1,8340/50 West German marks, down from 133.05/10 yen and 1,8415/25 marks in New York yesterday.

"Trading remained mostly quiet all day and no major movement is expected until the US trade data due on Friday," said a dealer.

The dollar fell on a report by a Japanese financial news service that Bank of Japan Governor

Satoshi Sumita had told other central bankers at a meeting in Basle, Switzerland, that Japan would take appropriate measures to stabilise currencies.

But it quickly rebounded on a report quoting a US official as saying the Group of Seven nations agreed to tolerate a moderate dollar rise, dealers said.

Tokyo shares climbed higher although investors remain wary about long-term investments due to uncertainties over the yen/dollar rate, brokers said. The Nikkei index gained 113.85 points or 0.41 per cent, to close at 28,099.84.

Activity

"There is a lot of activity in the stock market but the index is not up much, which leads me to believe it is a fast, rotational market," said Amanda Mackinon, a broker at UBS Phillips & Drew International.

Gold was trading at around \$435.40 an ounce by late afternoon in Tokyo, up from New York's yesterday close of \$434.75.

In other regional share markets, Australian stocks fell back after a seven-day rally, but brokers said the market's performance was better than expected given the weak commodity and gold prices.

The main Australian index was down 3.7 points to 1,625.3. Hong Kong's share market rose.

Imadi meets Amir

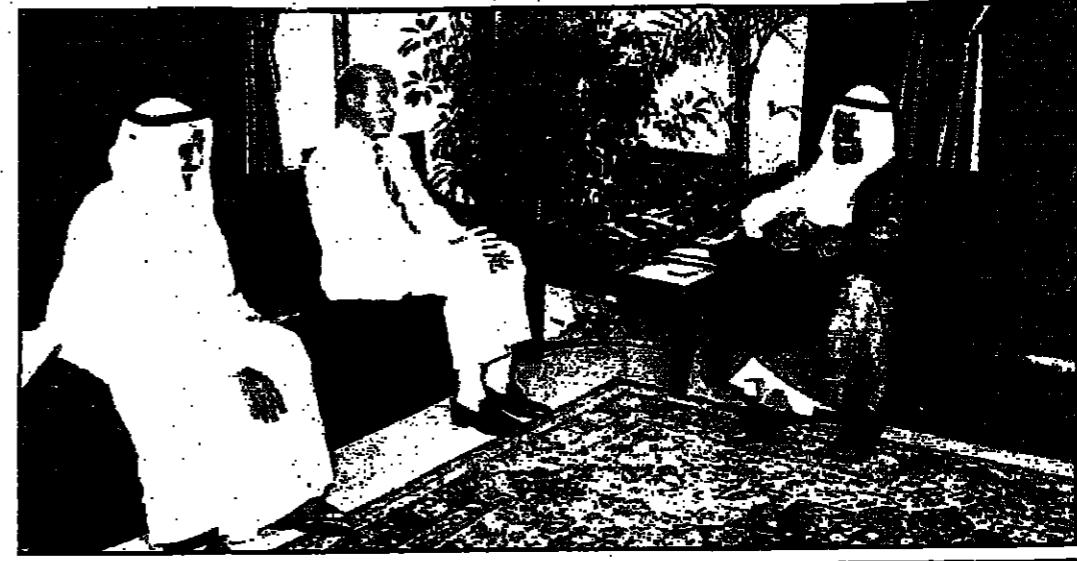
HH the Amir yesterday received visiting Syrian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Mohammed Al Imadi.

Later Dr Imadi held talks with Kuwait's Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi.

They discussed bilateral ties and ways of promoting cooperation in the fields of economy and finance.

The meeting was attended by a number of senior officials at the Ministry of Finance, Public Investment Authority, Kuwait Airways Corporation and Touristic Enterprises Company.

Dr Imadi also met acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

**Indonesia sees no need for OPEC meeting**

JAKARTA, July 12. (Reuter): Indonesia said today it saw no need for a special meeting of OPEC's five-member pricing committee despite falls in the price of oil.

Indonesian Energy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita told reporters that contacts between OPEC members were more effective than a meeting of the committee which would only build up market expectations.

Committee

The committee, comprising Algeria, Indonesia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, can call an emergency meeting of the entire Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"I'm not ruling out the possibility of such a meeting if the steps we are taking now do not produce results," Ginandjar stated.

The OPEC news agency, OPECNA, said yesterday that the pricing committee would

meet after the group's secretary-general, former Indonesian Energy Minister Subrata, visits the UAE shortly.

Ginandjar said he was not aware of any official proposal for a price committee meeting, despite spot prices trading around three to four dollars below OPEC's reference of \$18 a barrel.

The UAE has publicly rejected its quota, renewed at OPEC's full meeting in Vienna last month.

Ginandjar said he believed it was more useful to make direct contact between members, and the organisation's president and secretary-general.

"This I think is more effective than a meeting of the five country pricing committee, which would only build up expectations, because if those expectations were not fulfilled it would be troublesome for us," he said.

He repeated his earlier position that it was not worth holding a meeting of the price committee unless members were convinced it could come up with concrete

results.

Ginandjar plans to hold talks with Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham M. Nazer when he visits the Kingdom later this week for the performance of hajj.

Ginandjar is scheduled to leave here Saturday for Saudi Arabia for a 10-day stay.

In a statement, Ginandjar said he would like to discuss recent price-related developments on the world oil market with his Saudi colleague.

Steps

He stressed that OPEC should take "appropriate steps as soon as possible" to cope with the current downward trend in oil prices.

He also reiterated a call to all OPEC members to abide by their respective oil output ceilings and the \$18 per barrel price.

Meanwhile, Indonesian President Suharto has called on Saudi Arabia to continue to help preserve the unity and solidarity of OPEC.

Only through unity could OPEC achieve its objectives, especially in its efforts to bring about stable and favourable crude prices, he said.

While receiving the credentials of the new Saudi Arabian ambassador to Indonesia, Tal'at Amrin Hamdi, at the weekend, Suharto stressed that sound and stable oil prices were important for Indonesia as a source of income and foreign exchange earlier.

The President noted that under OPEC's oil output agreement Saudi Arabia and Indonesia were producing below their capacities.

Confident

Saudi Arabia is currently producing less than half its potential, while Indonesian output is only 1.12 million b/d against its capacity of 1.60 million b/d.

Suharto was confident that the two countries would further strengthen their traditional friendship and co-operation.

Politics may slow down foreign investments

NEW DELHI, July 12. (Reuter): India is hinting it will make it easier for foreign investors to cut through a bureaucratic jungle that deters many from doing business, but diplomats and economists say that Indian politics may spell slow progress.

"India is starting to worry that it will miss out on the boom that foreign investment has brought to South-East Asia," said Sumitra Chishti, an economist at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University.

To sway

She said the lure of foreign investment's ability to generate growth and resources without showing up as a liability on the nation's balance sheet, was beginning to sway Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. But it would be a slow process.

A hint that the climate might be easing was dropped when Gandhi visited Japan in April and promised to slash through the red tape which has strangled many past projects.

He repeated the promise in West Germany in June. But already there were signs he was being reined in by socialist critics in his Congress (I) party who

complain he favours big business.

Gandhi went off to Japan and promised a fast track. But in Germany he was already qualifying it — "within the framework of our existing rules;" that sort of thing," Chishti said.

A West German diplomat in Delhi said small and medium-sized foreign firms looking to set up in India "simply can't afford to spend two, three, four years waiting for approval."

In high technology products may be outdated even as forms are still being filled out in triplicate.

Keen to hustle along the transfer of technology, Gandhi has pinpointed this field for special attention, even allowing it to wriggle out of a rule setting a 40 per cent limit on foreign equity holdings.

Gandhi's looser stance on that area alone has prompted Westerners to look at India as a potential market for a whole range of sophisticated goods.

Perspective

"There is a new perspective on India from a German point of view. We're no longer seeing it in terms of the old stereotype of rural poverty," the diplomat said.

"The changes promised so far are no more than procedural."

But in bureaucratic India, where initiatives both foreign

and domestic have been known to drown in paperwork, even procedural changes — if genuine — might be enough to bring the money in.

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But in bureaucratic India, where initiatives both foreign

ICC special panel to meet on price dispute

LONDON, July 12. (AP): A special panel set up by the 37-nation International Cocoa Organisation will meet tomorrow to help resolve a dispute between cocoa producers and consumers that is blocking the introduction of new measures to stabilise the world market.

The ICCO is scheduled to hear the panel's findings in September.

The producers' representatives are Denis Henry of Grenada and N'Gueissan Kouame, who heads the sales division of the Ivory Coast's State Cocoa Marketing Board.

Consumers

Consumers are represented by Henry Darwin, a British foreign office legal expert, and Josef Kipper, a West German government expert on commodities.

The panel's first task will be to elect a chairman. ICCO officials said today that the main candidate is Jean-Henri Parrotte, the French executive director of the International Wheat Council.

Sudan and Jordan main beneficiaries of Arab investments

ARAB investments in Sudan increased by 15.2 percent to reach \$41.80 million last year over 1986, according to the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation.

The corporation's annual report said Jordan ranked second with investments rising to \$41.70 million, compared with a year earlier.

The report attributed the increase to the Jordanian government's new measure to encourage Arab investment in the country.

The report added that private investors from the six member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) invested \$14.80 million or more than 50 per cent of total Arab investment in 1987.

The report said that Arab investments last year decreased by 37 percent or \$227.60 million in the Arab world against the 1986 level.

These investments, the report said, went to finance projects in agriculture, animal resources and fisheries (\$69.40 million).

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP**tax.**

FRANKFURT: Shares fell about one per cent in thin trading, depressed by profit-taking and uncertainty ahead of US trade data on Friday. The Dax 30-share index, calculated once a minute during the session, dropped 11.74 to 1,184.85.

ZURICH: Prices closed slightly lower in fairly moderate trading on profit-taking. The All-Share Swiss index was 5.7 points lower at 889.9.

PARIS: Prices ended off their lows in quiet trade with only the shares of luxury goods group LVMH generating much trading interest. The 50-share Bourse Indicator ended 0.77 down from Monday's close.

LONDON: Shares remained mostly lower in light volume with special situations stirring the only interest. A downward push on Wall Street left the FTSE 100 index 7.8 points lower at 869 at 1447 GMT.

BOMBAY: Shares gained ground on speculative and institutional support bolstered by Finance Minister S B Chavan's announcement the government was examining a proposal to exempt dividend income from

the tax.

FRANKFURT: Shares fell about one per cent in thin trading, depressed by profit-taking and uncertainty ahead of US trade data on Friday. The Dax 30-share index, calculated once a minute during the session, dropped 11.74 to 1,184.85.</

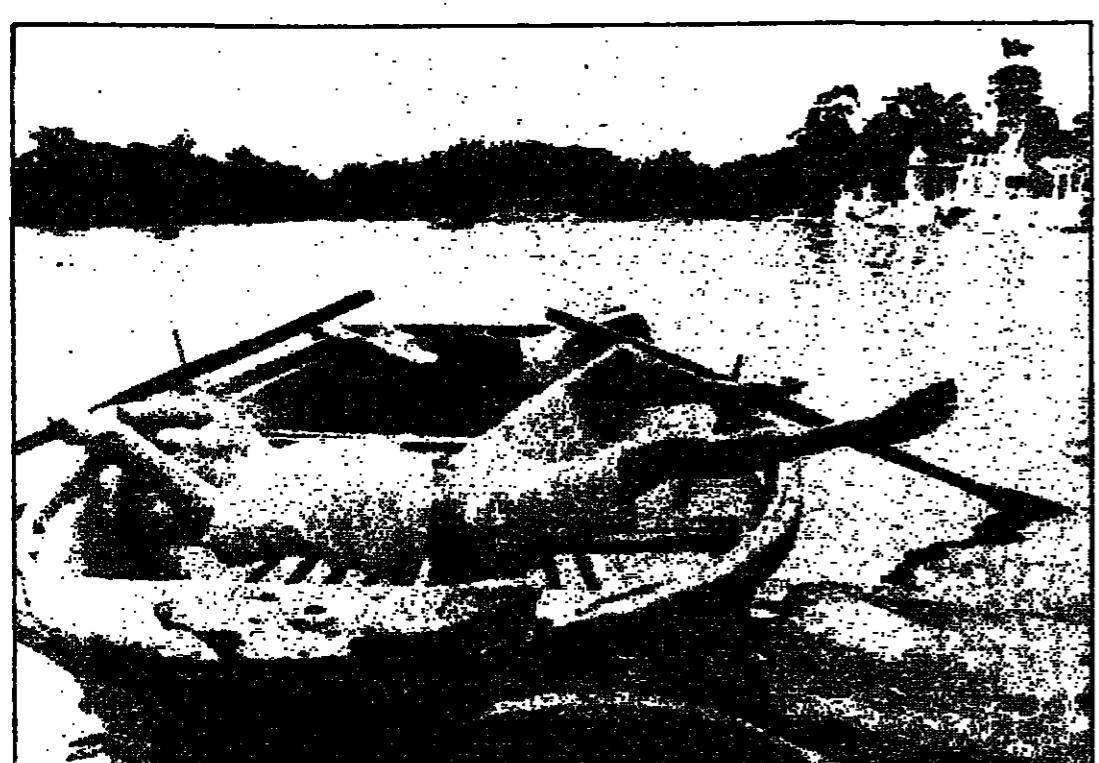
IN FOCUS World today



A VILLAGE family leaves their flooded home on a raft in northern Bangladesh town of Netrakona. (Reuter wirephoto)



CREW from a rescue ship use hoses to try and put out fire on board the City of Poros after it was attacked by gunmen in Piraeus, Greece. Eleven tourists were killed and over 90 wounded in the attack. (Reuter wirephoto)



WITH temperatures soaring, these two visitors to Madrid's Retiro Park found the ideal way to pass the afternoon as they rented a boat, moored it in the shade, and took a nap. (Reuter wirephoto)



AMERICAN pop superstar Michael Jackson waves from the elevated position of a set of airport steps to fans who welcomed him at London's Heathrow Airport. (Reuters wirephoto)



ONE of the passengers aboard the City of Poros ferry is aided by an ambulance attendant as she gets off another ferry that brought her to shore. (Reuter wirephoto)



MASSIMILIANO FACHINI, (left) talks to reporters watched by Sergio Piciafucco after the two were sentenced to life imprisonment with two others on charges of multiple homicide resulting from their involvement in the bombing in August 1980 of Bologna railway station in which 85 people were killed. (Reuter wirephoto)



PLACIDO DOMINGO and Linda Ronstadt rehearse a duet for the First New York International Festival of Arts in New York. (Reuter wirephoto)



INDEPENDENT Students Union stages protests in central Warsaw during Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit. Banners say: 'We demand the removal of Soviet troops from Poland' and 'Sovereignty for all nationalities in the Soviet Union.' (Reuter wirephoto)



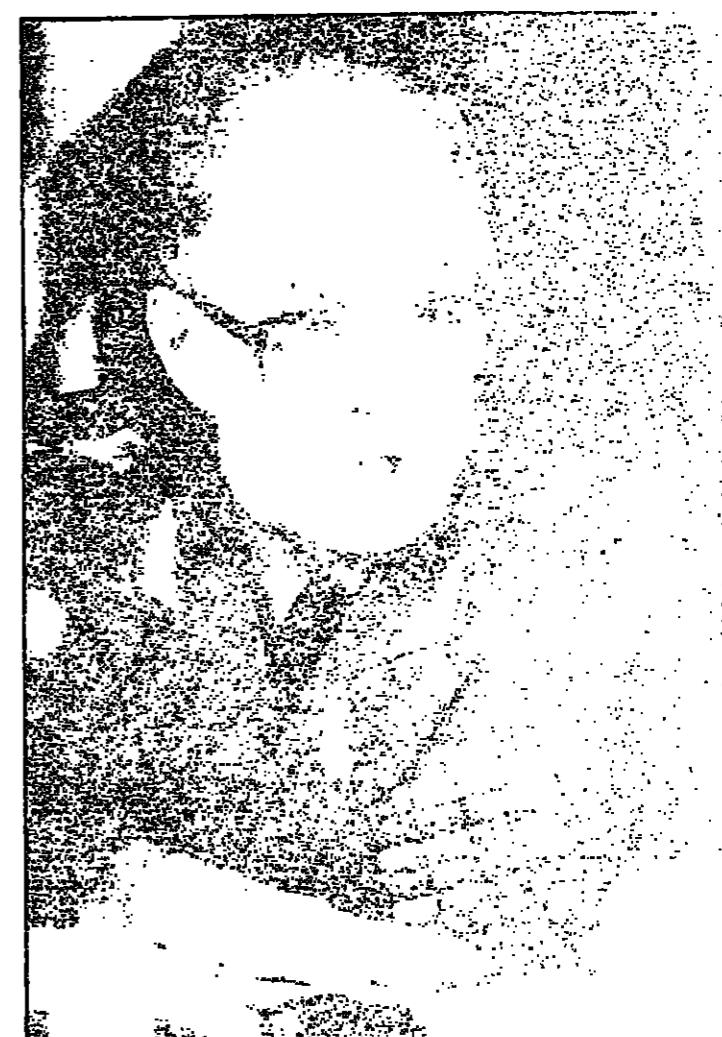
DEMOCRATIC presidential candidate Michael Dukakis yesterday announced Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen as his vice-presidential running mate. (Reuter wirephoto)



VICE-PRESIDENT George Bush fishes from his boat Fidelity off the coast of Kennebunkport, Maine. (Reuter wirephoto).



A SUPPORTER of the National Liberation Army of Iran shouts 'death to Khomeini' at a demonstration on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. About 200 Iranian Canadians demonstrated to show support for the Iranian resistance movement. (Reuters wirephoto)



SOVIET Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, Chief of the General Staff of the USSR, speaking at a press conference at the Pentagon. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

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IN Salwa, near Gulf English School, in a CAC on second floor with 3 bedrooms, large saloon, 2 bathrooms, kitchen with cupboards and gas. Tel. 5617770, 5627773. 8am-12noon, 4-9pm. (AT4-43160-3)

JABRIYA, new flat, first floor, 3 bedrooms, 2 sitting rooms, 3 bathrooms with sunglasses balcony and a kitchen. Tel. 5321666. (AT4-43139-3)

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IN Salmya, near Pakistani School for an Indian working couple or working girl to share with an Indian family. Tel. 5639504. (AT4-43150-2)

MAIDAN HAWALLI, opp Shaab Garden, 2 bedroom flat including hall and saloon, with tele. facility for an Indian family to share with a family. Tel. 5617934, 5618891. (AT4-43179-3)

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Arab Times Classifieds the buyer's companion

ADVERTISE IN THE ARAB TIMES FOR BETTER RESULTS

SALMIYA, Baghdad Street, close to bus stop. One room in a 2 bedroom apartment, four a couple or working ladies. Tel. 3926412. 3926415. working hours. (AT4-43178-2)

SALMIYA, near Salmya Centre, behind Commercial Bank. One room for one Muslim bachelor (non-smoker) to share with a Muslim family. Tel. 5753993. 5-7 pm. (AT4-43180-2)

DASMA, Area 1, Street 18, House 4, accommodation for lady. Rent KD25. Tel. Mr. Omar. 2403097. 2561590. (AT4-43149-3)

SALMIYA, behind Mercedes showroom, for Indian bachelors to share with other bachelors. Bus 15, 19, 24, 519, 30. Tel. 5749750. from 10 am-9 pm. (AT4-43140-3)

SHABA, near Co-operative opp. Kentucky, House 8, Street 36, Block 3. One room with kitchen facility including water and electricity for a small family, working girls or bachelors. Tel. Pinto, 2422238, mornings only. (AT4-43150-3)

TOYOTA, Corolla GL '82, registered upto July '89 in excellent condition. KD1000, cash. Tel. 2401516, 9032048. (AT4-43156-3)

TOYOTA, Corolla '86 model, automatic, 32,000 kms, lightgreen with AC in excellent condition. Cash or instalments. Tel. 7am-1pm only. (AT4-43157-3)

HONDA Accord EXR, 1800cc, 1983 model, 83,000 kms, fully automatic with 4 doors, sunroof, AC, and radio/cassette. One owner, in very good condition. KD850 cash. Tel. 2832852. (AT4-43116-3)

BMW 320, 1982, 2 door, automatic, with AC, 64,700 kms. KD750. Tel. Randeep, 3983882. 3981961. 8 am-12.30 pm. 2 pm-4.30 pm. (AT4-43144-3)

MITSUBISHI Colt, 1985 model, blue, manual, with AC, 65,000 kms in excellent condition. KD1050 cash. Tel. 4746271, any time. (AT4-43174-2)

TOYOTA Corona, 18 GL, Dec '84, 65,000 kms, fully automatic, five doors, hatchback, sunroof, with AC, in excellent condition. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD1,200. ono. Tel. 4818669. 5-7 pm. (AT4-43164-3)

ISUZU Aska '84 model, fully automatic, silver colour with AC, in good condition. KD150 for owner. KD40x18 by instalments. Tel. Hami, 2636769. 2.5pm, or after 9.30 pm. 2463179. 9 am-2 noon. (AT4-43133-3)

NISSAN Stanza, registered in Dec '83, 69,000 kms, fully automatic with 5 doors, AC, sunroof, stereo/cassette, radio, power steering. KD600. Contact Mr. Mujeeb, Abbasiya Gulf Flower Super market (new). (AT4-43158-3)

TOYOTA Cressida GL '82, registered upto July '89 in excellent condition. KD1000, cash. Tel. 24474490, after 2.30 pm. (AT4-43154-3)

ROLAND G-808 guitar controller + GR-100 electronic guitar effects (complete) chorus, vibrato, filter modulation — "WAM" HEXA distortion, feedback ... KD 250. Tel. 4882869. 7-8pm only. (AT4-43157-3)

TV, Sony video, microwave, washing machine including some household items for sale. Tel. 2648148. (AT4-Sey-26964-3)

JVC video camera with built-in recorder model GRC-7, 1 year 4 months old, sparingly used KD325, ono. Tel. 4339348. (AT4-43155-3)

HOUSEHOLD effects, furniture, piano, Frig-GE showcase, sideboard, sound system-Akai + speakers and various other items. Tel. 2412869, after 12 noon. (AT4-3143-3)

TV, Sony video, microwave, washing machine including some household items for sale. Tel. 3903452. (AT4-43173-2)

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SPORTS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1988

JACKLIN APPRAISES FIELD FOR TOP GOLF TOURNAMENT**European trio tipped to win British Open**

BASTAD, Sweden, July 12. (AP): Singles action in the Swedish Open started yesterday with no seeds in action, as well as without Stefan Edberg and Sweden's other four top-ranked tennis players, who turned down a chance to play in the \$245,000 tourney.

Edberg, who captured his first Wimbledon title earlier this month, decided to play doubles only in the Swedish Open. A singles finalist against fellow Swede Joakim Nyström last year, Edberg will team with Niclas Kroon of Sweden.

Mats Wilander, winner earlier this year of the Australian and French Opens and the Lipton International Players Championships, said he didn't want to spend two weeks at this west coast resort. But he'll be here on July 22-24 when defending champion Sweden takes on France in the Davis Cup semifinals.

Kent Carlsson, Sweden's best clay court player behind Wilander, Jonas Svensson and Anders Jarryd also skipped the clay-court tournament.

Ahead

That left Nyström as the top seed in the 48-man singles draw ahead of fellow Swedes Magnus Gustafsson, who reached the fourth round in Paris, and Jan Gunnarsson. All 16 seeded players received first-round byes.

In yesterday's opening matches, three Swedes and two Italians were among the winners.

Junior Lars Jonsson beat Johan Sandberg 6-3, 6-4; Niklas Kulti beat 1984 champion Henrik Sundstrom 7-5, 6-0 in all-Swedish matches and Peter Svensson, another Swede, advanced with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Czech Branišlav Stankovic.

Francesco Cancellotti and Paolo Cane, both Italians, also won in straight sets. Cancellotti defeated Patrik Wennberg 6-2, 6-2 and Cane eliminated Tom Nijssen of Holland 6-3, 6-3. Cancellotti will play Gustafsson next.

Cash withdraws from Australian Olympic team

MELBOURNE, July 12. (Reuters): Pat Cash, who withdrew today, he would not be available to play tennis for Australia at the Seoul Olympics because of family and tournament commitments.

Cash, the 1987 Wimbledon champion, was named last December in Australia's four-man team along with Peter Doohan, John Fitzgerald and Wally Masur.

Doubles

Davis Cup captain Neale Fraser, who will manage the Olympic tennis team, said Masur and Fitzgerald would play singles while Fitzgerald would team up with newcomer Darren Cahill in the doubles.

The women's team remains Anne Minter, Liz Smylie and Wendy Turnbull. Hana Mandikova, who became an Australian citizen on January 1, is ineligible for the team.

The Olympics take place from September 17 to October 2. The tennis events last from September 20 to October 1.

Matsuoka stuns Steeb in Nabisco GP

STUTTGART, West Germany, July 12. (AP): Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan defeated West Germany's Carl-Uwe Steeb 6-4, 6-2 in first-round play yesterday at the \$300,000 men's Nabisco Grand Prix tennis tournament in Stuttgart.

Also yesterday, Damar Keretic defeated fellow West German Alexander Mironz 7-5, 6-4, while Tore Meinecke of West Germany lost to Chile's Sergio Corra 3-6, 3-6.

Miroslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia, who plays today, is the tournament's top-seed player.

Mecir made it to the semifinals of this year's Wimbledon tournament, but was defeated by Stefan Edberg, who went on to win the tournament.

Garrison and Reggi triumph

BRUSSELS, Belgium, July 12. (AP): First-seed Zina Garrison defeated Caroline Van Renterghem 6-3, 6-4 yesterday, the first day of play at the Belgian Ladies Open.

In other first-round matches, third-seed Raffaella Reggi of Italy beat Veronika Martini of West Germany 6-1, 6-0; Celine Cohen of Switzerland beat Andrea Vieira of Brazil 6-3, 7-5, 6-4; Pat Medrado of Brazil beat Simone Schilder of Holland 6-1, 6-3; and Olga Tsaropoulou of Greece downed Barbara Romano of Italy 4-6, 6-3.

LYTHAM ST ANNES, England, July 12. (Reuters): The British Open golf championship, for so long the preserve of American professionals, is likely to escape their clutches again this year.

Not since Tom Watson won for the fifth time at Royal Birkdale in 1983—the 12th success in 14 Opens for the US contingent—has an American lifted the silver claret jug which goes to the champion.

Instead, the venerable old trophy has passed through the hands of Britain's Sandy Lyle, Spain's Seve Ballesteros, Greg Norman of Australia and, last year at Muirfield, Briton Nick Faldo.

Though Norman is absent, the victim of a wrist injury sustained during the US Open last month, Lyle, Ballesteros and Faldo are on the inside track in the title chase which begins on Thursday over the 6,857-yard Royal Lytham course on the north-west coast of England.

Right behind them are three more Europeans with strong credentials, Bernard Langer of West Germany, Welshman Ian Woosnam and the new hope of the European circuit, Englishman Barry Lane.

Tony Jacklin, the winner at Lytham in 1969 and the captain and mastermind of Europe's last two Ryder Cup victories over the United States, was categoric in his appraisal of the field today.

"I can see beyond a European winner, I can't see an American winning. I don't think



Faldo (left) and Ballesteros: two of the golfers favoured to take the title

they are as good as we are now," he said. "A European will win because we're better."

He did, however, concede that US Open champion Curtis Strange, who beat Faldo in a playoff for that title last month, "is in form and certainly one of the top three in the world."

"But I think the conditions here this week favour a European victory," Jacklin said.

Lyle, the big Scot who is joint favourite with Ballesteros, has been in formidable form this

year.

Spending much of his time on the US tour, he won the Phoenix Open in a play-off with Fred Couples then in successive weeks in April captured the Greater Greensboro Open and, with a magnificent bunker shot at the final hole, the US Masters title at Augusta, Georgia.

He leads the American money list with winnings of \$617,334.

When Lyle returned home from the US Masters he won the British Masters last month



Ballesteros (right) and Faldo: two of the golfers favoured to take the title

before finishing joint second in the Scottish Open last Saturday.

Though he missed the cut three weeks ago at the French Open, he has his swing—particularly on his trusty one iron—is in good shape.

"The main thing here will be getting safely off the tee and avoiding the bunkers. That's why I've been working with my driver and my one iron," he said.

Ballesteros is too talented to go much longer without adding a major victory to the four he

already has—the Open in 1979 when it was last held at Lytham and in 1984 at St Andrews, the US Masters in 1980 and 1983. He has won twice this year.

Faldo, the holder after his remarkable final round of 18 successive pars last year, accepted defeat at the US Open last month like a champion.

There was no mopping, just a thorough analysis of what went wrong and a resurrection of his putting form in time to win the French Open the following week.

Langer has had back trouble and putting problems lately. Jacklin played with him yesterday.

"Bernhard's been hard," he said. "He fluffs about with different clubs, always looking for an edge. He's like Arnold Palmer, who'd shoot a 63 and then go out with a different set of clubs the next day thinking he should shoot a 61."

"Bernhard's determination and desire are incredible."

Woosnam, the world's top golfer in 1978, played solidly in Scotland last week on his return from an arm injury.

Lane looks certain to take his place among the star players. A superb player in the wind—a vital consideration here—he also hits a one-iron even further than Lyle.

Solid

Besides Strange and Watson, the US delegation includes three-times champion Jack Nicklaus, Chip Beck, Lanny Wadkins and Ben Crenshaw, second, fourth and fifth on the US money list, and Paul Azinger, narrowly beaten by Faldo last year.

There is a host of solid US contenders right behind them. But perhaps the dark horse is a US tour regular who is not American.

South African David Frost

has been second eight times in US tour events over the past three years, including three in 1988.

"I want to put aside the distractions of the past," said Gooden, who missed the first two months of the 1987 season because of cocaine rehabilitation.

Gooden to start for NL against AL

CINCINNATI, July 12. (AP): Infused with 30 fresh faces, this year's All-Star game will be a test of whose new blood is best.

Never have there been so many newcomers—18 on the National League side, including starters Vince Coleman, Will Clark and Bobby Bonilla.

Starting pitcher Frank Viola is among 12 first-timers for the American League. Combined, more than half of the 56 players are making their first appearance.

"I kind of feel like the old man of the team," said right-fielder Darryl Strawberry, who at 26 was making his fifth All-Star start today. "There are so many new faces that it just doesn't seem like the same NL All-Star team anymore. It's good to have some new blood."

Start

Dwight Gooden, Strawberry's teammate on the New York Mets, was to start for the NL. It's his fourth All-Star game, but this represents a new start.

"I want to put aside the distractions of the past," said Gooden, who missed the first two months of the 1987 season because of cocaine rehabilitation.

"It seems like when I came back last year, my confidence wasn't quite there," Gooden said. "Also, when I'd go to a movie or the mall, I didn't know if people were staring at me because I was a baseball player or because of the problems I'd had."

"For the first two months, when the temptation (for cocaine) would come around, I'd just think about all the people I'd hurt," he said. "It just takes over. You're abusing yourself."

Gooden, 21-5, lost his last start on Friday night. This time, his support will include such familiar faces as Strawberry and Gary Carter of the Mets, Andre Dawson of the Cubs and Ozzie Smith of the Cardinals.

Violà, 14-2, won his previous start on July 6. Instead of the Minnesota Twins, Violà will be surrounded by the likes of Rickey Henderson and Dave Winfield of the New York Yankees and Wade Boggs of Boston.

Both managers announced the batting orders yesterday.

Vince Coleman of St Louis will lead off for the National League and play left field. Second baseman Ryne Sandberg of Chicago will bat second, followed by Dawson in centre field.

Strawberry will play right and bat fourth, followed by order by third baseman Bobby Bonilla of Pittsburgh and first baseman Will Clark of San Francisco.

Leading

Carter, a two-time All-Star MVP, will bat seventh and shortstop Smith, the leading vote-getter this season, hits eighth.

American League manager

Tom Kelly said he wasn't sure how his outfielders would line up because Winfield and Jose Canseco have both played right field this season.

Henderson will lead off in one outfield spot, followed by Paul Molitor of Milwaukee, elected at second base although he has played there only twice this season, this past Saturday and Sunday.

Boggs will play third and bat third, with Canseco fourth and Winfield fifth. Cal Ripken of Baltimore replaces injured Alan Trammell at shortstop and bats sixth, followed by Oakland teammates Mark McGwire at first base and Terry Steinbach at catcher.

But some other perennial All-Stars are not present. Mike Schmidt, Dale Murphy, Tim Raines and Eddie Murray are among the big names missing.

Even two of the six umpires are first-timers—Dale Ford and Dan Morrison of the American League.

"It just seems like there are a lot of National League veterans not having good years and a lot of young players doing well," said Rafael Palmeiro, batting .311 for the Chicago Cubs.

"There are five Minnesota players on the team, the first time the Twins have had more than one in 11 seasons. They were picked by manager Tom Kelly, who guided the Twins to the World Series championship."

Feef

"They all deserved to make it," Violà said of teammates Kirby Puckett, Gary Gaetti, Jeff Reardon and Tim Laudner.

Oakland also has five players, giving the AL West a total of 17. It's the first time the division, long considered a weak sister of the East, has had that many since 1975.

"The main thing is I'll get to play. I feel like part of the team," said cleanup hitter Jose Canseco, who was an All-Star in 1986 but did not appear in the game.

The NL leads the series 37-20. 1. It has won 14 of the last 16 along with 22 of 25.

Potter holds on to edge Nagelsen

Potter was 1-5 down in the 2nd set

she had as much trouble finding time to change her shirt as she did recovering from a second set deficit of 1-5.

"The umpire kept calling time every time I went behind the curtain to change it (my shirt). Maybe it was good that I had to keep trying to dodge behind the curtain because it gave me something to think about when my serve went off in the second set," Potter said.

Potter, ranked 16th in the world, clicked back into form to win the last six games for the match. The opening set advanced on serve to a tiebreak, which Potter won 7-4.

Nagelsen broke Potter for the second time in the match in the sixth game on two volleying errors but dropped her serve in the seventh and ninth games as Potter successfully chipped her service returns at Nagelsen's feet.

The other seeds had easier times. Fairbank eliminated American Anne Smith 6-4, 6-2, while White served and volleyed past Peruvian Pilar Vasquez 6-3. Gigi Fernandez easily defeated her cousin Anna Maria Fernandez of the US 6-2, 6-3.

NFL players lose free agency bid

MINNEAPOLIS, July 12. (Reuters): A bid to gain unrestricted free agency for 284 players in the National Football League (NFL) was denied in a court decision yesterday.

The NFL Players Association had sought an injunction to grant the players freedom to sign with any club on grounds that no collective bargaining pact existed between the owners and players when the players' contracts expired in February.

Free agency was the key issue in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement before

Rugby Test

TOWNSVILLE, Australia, July 12. (Reuters): All Black centre Warwick Taylor will miss the second rugby union Test against Australia in Brisbane on Saturday because of a broken right hand.

Taylor withdrew from tomorrow's game against Queensland B here after an X-ray showed the injury, which caused him to miss the first Test, had not completely healed.

John Schuster, who made his debut in Taylor's place in the first Test which New Zealand won 32-7, is expected to stay in the side although he has to overcome a minor leg strain.

Taylor withdrew from tomorrow's game against Queensland B here after an X-ray showed the injury, which caused him to miss the first Test, had not completely healed.

Wilson started the day determined to attack Haider's lead and took fastest time on four of the early stages. But when he failed to make any appreciable impression on the leader he settled back into a steady pace to ensure he would gain a coveted A-priority seeding in his Mazda

4WD Turbo.

The other A-priority seeding went to Stewart who exceeded expectations by finishing third.

The rally ended with a surprise for both drivers and officials—a welcome from Prime Minister David Lange, a motor sports enthusiast.

He turned up at the finish only hours after he left hospital after a 10-day stay for heart treatment.

Top 10 final placings (New Zealanders unless stated):

SPORTS

PSV GIVEN BYE INTO SECOND ROUND

AC Milan avoid big-name rivals

GENEVA, July 12. (Reuter): AC Milan, boasting three outstanding members of the winning Dutch European Championship team yet still unused, stayed clear of their big-name rivals today, drawing a trip to Vitosha Sofia in the first round of the European Cup.

AC Milan, like their Bulgarian opponents, did not rate a place among the eight seeded clubs because of their indifferent European record in the years which followed their two European Cup and two European Cup-Winners' Cup triumphs between 1963 and 1973.

Rated

But Real Madrid, Porto and the other seeded teams were relieved to avoid a clash with the Italian champions and their brilliant Dutch trio of Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, rated the top three players of last month's European Cup in West Germany.

Real, who have won the European Cup a record six times, were given a gentler start than last season when they faced Diego Maradona's Napoli, title-holders Porto and former champions Bayern Munich before falling to eventual winners PSV Eindhoven in the semifinals.

The Spaniards, whose last European Cup final success



Gullit (left): one of the brilliant Dutch playing for AC Milan

dates back to 1966, were drawn at home to unsung Norwegians Moss in the first leg on September 7. The second leg will be on October 5.

The gap between the first and second legs is four weeks instead of the customary two to avoid clashing with the Seoul Olym-

pics.

Defending champions PSV were given a bye into the second round.

Porto entertain HJK Helsinki in the first leg, while Steaua Bucharest, their predecessors as European Cup victors in 1986, were drawn away to fellow East

Europeans Sparta Prague.

An intriguing all-German confrontation pits Dynamo Berlin, champions of the east, against Werder Bremen, standard-bearers of the west.

But attention focuses on AC Milan, whose director Silvino Ramaccioli said: "This is a very happy draw for us and you can call it a shot in the middle, and not one of the top teams."

"We are not afraid of playing away in the first leg but this team are not easy opponents. It is a good thing for us that we did not draw one of the seeded teams like Real Madrid and suffer the same fate as Napoli last season."

"We have great hopes of going through to the second round and are definitely assured of a full stadium at home."

For the fourth successive season English teams will be absent from the three European competitions following the domestic football association's decision in June to withdraw their application for re-admission in the wake of violent clashes involving England fans at the European Championship.

English clubs were banned after riots at the 1983 European Cup final in Brussels between Liverpool and Juventus Turin which resulted in 39 deaths.

Scotland's Celtic, the first British club to win the European Cup with their 1967 final victory

over Inter-Milan, visit Hungarian champions Honved in the first leg.

Belgium's Mechelen, who captured the European Cup-Winners' Cup beating star-studded Ajax Amsterdam in the final, were drawn to open their title defence at home against the modest opposition of Beggen from little neighbours Luxembourg.

Compatriots Anderlecht, UEFA Cup victors of 1983, were also given a home opener in the same competition against Metz of France.

A quartet of illustrious former European Cup champions find themselves in the UEFA Cup this time.

Twice

Benfica of Portugal, last season's beaten European Cup finalists, visit Montpellier of France, while Inter-Milan — like Benfica, twice European Cup champions in the 1960s — are away to IK Brage of Sweden.

Ajax Amsterdam and West Germany's Bayern Munich, who won the European Cup three times apiece in the 1970s, were drawn respectively away to Sporting Lisbon and at home to Legia Warsaw.

West Germany's Bayer Leverkusen open their UEFA Cup defence at home to OS Belenenses of Portugal.



● Soviet Olympic attaché Nicolai Lents (left) and Mikhail Bodin, a Soviet sports ministry official, arrived in Seoul yesterday to prepare for Soviet participation in the Seoul Olympics in September. (Reuter wirephoto)

US gymnastics coach doubtful for Olympics

HOUSTON, July 12. (Reuter): Famed gymnastics coach Bela Karolyi says there is little chance his dispute with fellow coaches on the 1988 US Olympic team will be resolved in time for him to go to this year's Seoul Olympics.

"I don't believe anything will change in the next couple of months, so it's doubtful that I will be there," he told Reuters yesterday.

Resigned

Karolyi shocked the Olympic committee when he abruptly resigned over the weekend from his position as head of the US gymnastic delegation.

Karolyi, whose gym placed five women in the top 10 spots at the US Gymnastics Championships and who coached Mary Lou Retton to gold in Los Angeles, indicated professional jealousy among some of the other coaches led him to resign.

He said coaches "who have

produced nothing — they have not even one athlete competing in the national championships, questioned his role in Seoul.

"They got nervous about me going over there watching and giving directions. There are people who are more concerned about their own position than what happens to the athletes.

"It was obvious they don't want to co-operate with me. If the coaching staff doesn't want to accept my contributions and technical advice, then it would not do any good for me to be in Seoul," he said.

As head of the gymnastics delegation, Karolyi would not have been allowed to coach from the floor.

US Gymnastics Federation executive director Mike Jacki could not be reached for comment yesterday, but told a Houston newspaper that he would not accept Karolyi's resignation.

Maroons hold Starlite to 1-1 draw

A LAST-MINUTE goal by substitute Cosme spared Goa Maroons' blushes and also virtually guaranteed them a place among the leaders in Group 2 after their 1-1 draw against Starlite on Friday in the 10th United Goans Football tournament at the Sour grounds.

Starlite dominated most of the game but were hampered by their own inability to convert the chances that came their way into goals.

Efforts

In the other match played on the same ground, Goa Cultural Association overcame Rising Stars 3-2. Rising, twice winners of the UGC Shield, tried hard to get the equaliser but their efforts were in vain as the rival defence held firm.

On Friday, Goan Sporting meet Incredible, Salcete play Goa Cultural Association and Rising Stars meet Santos.

SPORTS BRIEFS**West Indies**

LONDON, July 12. (Reuter): West Indies' cricketers will play Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge from July 27 to 29. The touring side were due to play either Derbyshire or Surrey on these dates, but both are in the quarter-finals of the Natwest Trophy on July 27.

Women's cycling

BESANCON, France, July 12. (AP): Monique Knol of the Netherlands took the second stage of the women's Tour de France today, but there were no changes in the overall standings, still led by Jeannie Longo of France. Knol won the individual race of 76 kilometres (46 miles) from Lure to Besancon in one hour, 58 minutes, 44 seconds.

Gold Cup

SYDNEY, Australia, July 12. (AP): World Cup holder Argentina today appealed the suspension of vice-captain Ricardo Guisti and complained about their hotel accommodations to the organisers of the bicentennial Gold Cup soccer tournament.

Olympic soccer

ZURICH, July 12. (Reuter): Guatemala will replace Mexico, who have been banned by the International Football Federation (FIFA), in the Olympic Soccer tournament in Seoul, a FIFA official told Reuters today.

English Channel simply a challenge, says Schmitt

GREN BAY, Wisconsin, July 12. (AP): Gene Schmitt concedes he has unusual plans for the English Channel. But don't call him a daredevil.

"I just like a challenge," said Schmitt, a Green Bay plastic surgeon, before leaving for Britain for a try at swimming the backstroke across the English Channel. "I like to test myself to the limit and be the best I can at whatever I do."

Consider

He does a lot of things — things most of us would never consider trying.

There was the kayak trip to the bottom of the Grand Canyon two years ago. There was the climb up Mount Ranier in

one mile bicycle race.

The English Channel swim was an obvious choice for the Rockford, Illinois, native who swam competitively for 12 years.

But why the backstroke?

"Mainly because no one else has done it before," Schmitt said.

Kuwait loses

AMMAN, July 12. (Reuter): Algeria defeated Kuwait 1-0 (halftime 1-0) in their Group Two match today in the Fifth Arab Football Championships in Amman. Mohammed Salah Shukati scored the only goal in the 35th minute.

Ruggeri, a defender in Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning team in Mexico, is a survivor of a rebuilding plan at River Plate after Carlos Griguol's contract as coach was not renewed.

He should be summarily expelled."

Reuters

Medinis added that Fischer has never considered the conditions he has been offered to be satisfactory for a comeback.

"It's not secret that he is in two minds about whether he wants to come back to play," the grandmaster says.

On the walls of the Manhattan Chess Club in New York where the young player received his training, a fading oil painting depicts Fischer moving the white pieces.

In an adjoining room, a framed black-and-white photograph illustrates Fischer's magnetism even at an early age. He sits pensively over the board with a hand pressed to his mouth, oblivious to the onlookers crowded around the table.

The Manhattan, founded in

1877 and the oldest continuous chess club in the world, operates a school chess programme, perhaps in the hope of unearthing another Fischer.

Swiftly

Club membership increased dramatically when Fischer was

crushing the world's top grandmasters in the early 1970s and declined just as swiftly after his baffling disappearance from the scene.

"Bobby Fischer's come around

only once every 100 years," says Lyman.

Grandmaster Edmar Mednis,

who wrote a book in 1973 on how

to beat Fischer, hails the

Americas as the world's most

powerful player.

"Nervousness never entered

his conscience or sub-conscious,

he was single-minded and

knowledgeable... his whole game

was excellent," Mednis told

The film shows stills of Fischer

in a baggy jumper and his hair

cropped, becoming at age 13 the

youngest master in the history

of the game, and playing tourna-

ments around the world.

It rolls on finally to Fischer

stepping off the plane at Reykjavik, where he defeats Spassky in his greatest triumph at the age of 29. That was 1972.

Fischer refuses interviews and

the few people still in contact

with him decline to discuss his

lifestyle.

"That's how Bobby's lost all

his friends," said one.

Sinclair Lyman, host of a

weekly television series on the

match in Spain between 25-year-

old Kasparov and Karpov, 37,

recently devoted a large part of

his programme to Fischer.

The film shows stills of Fischer

magazines to keep in touch with

chess life that he "quit playing

at a moment when his pos-

sibilities appeared limitless."

"There is not much hope that

he will play chess seriously

again," said one associate.

He said that earlier last year

Fischer rejected a lucrative offer

to return to tournament play and

returning games. "He could

have made millions."

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